

V. I. LENIN

*Selected Works*

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PART I

THE YEARS OF REACTION  
(1908 1911)



## ON TO THE HIGH ROAD\*

WE have left behind us the year of disintegration, the year of ideological and political discord, the year in which the Party could not find its road. Our Party organisations have all become reduced in membership. Some of them—namely, those whose membership was least proletarian—fell to pieces. The semi legal institutions of the Party, created by the revolution, were raided time after time. Things reached such a state that some elements within the Party, which had succumbed to the influence of that disintegration, began to ask whether it was necessary to preserve the old Social Democratic Party, whether it was necessary to continue *its* work, whether it was necessary to go “underground” once more, and how this was to be done, and the extreme Right (the so called liquidationist trend) answered this question in the sense that it was necessary to legalise ourselves at all costs, even at the price of an open renunciation of the Party programme, tactics and organisation. This was undoubtedly not only an organisational but also an ideological and political crisis.

The recent All Russian Conference of the Russian Social Democratic Labour Party led the Party on to the high road, and apparently marks the turning point in the development of the Russian labour movement after the victory of the counter revolution. The decisions of the conference, published in a special “Communication” issued by the Central Committee of our Party, have been confirmed by the Central Committee, and, therefore, pending the next congress, stand as the decisions of the whole Party. These decisions give a very definite answer to the question concerning the causes and the significance of the crisis, as well as the means of overcoming it. By working in the spirit of the resolutions of this conference, by striving to make *all* Party workers clearly and fully realise the present tasks of the Party, our organisations will suc

ceed in strengthening and consolidating their forces for united and effective revolutionary Social Democratic work

The main cause of the Party crisis is indicated in the preamble of the resolution on organisation. This main cause is the purging of the Party of the vacillating intellectual and petty bourgeois elements, who joined the labour movement mainly in the hope of an early triumph of the bourgeois democratic revolution, and were not able to withstand the period of reaction. Their instability was revealed both in theory ("retreat from revolutionary Marxism" the resolution on the present situation) and in tactics (the "curtailment of slogans"), as well as in the domain of the organisational policy of the Party. The class conscious workers repelled this instability and came out resolutely against the liquidators, they began to take the management as well as the leadership of the Party organisations into their own hands. The reason this basic nucleus of our Party was unable to overcome the elements of disintegration and of crisis at one stroke was not only that the task was a great and difficult one amidst the triumph of the counter revolution, but also that a certain indifference towards the Party was displayed in the ranks of those workers who, although revolutionary minded, were not sufficiently class conscious. It is precisely to the class conscious workers of Russia that the decisions of the conference are addressed in the first place—as decisions representing the crystallised opinion of Social Democracy concerning the means of fighting *disintegration and vacillations*.

A Marxian analysis of present day class relations and of the new policy of tsarism: the indication of the immediate aim of the struggle which our Party continues as before to set itself, the appreciation of the lessons of the revolution as regards the correctness of the revolutionary Social Democratic tactics, the explanation of the causes of the Party crisis, pointing out the role of the proletarian elements of the Party in combating this crisis, the solution of the problem of the relation between the illegal and legal organisations, the recognition of the necessity of utilising the Duma tribune and of working out precise instructions for the guidance of our Duma fraction together with direct criticism of its errors—such was the principal content of the decisions of the conference which give a

complete answer to the question of the definite path the party of the working class is to choose in the difficult period we are now passing through. Let us carefully examine this answer.

The interrelation of classes in their political groupings remains the same as that which was typical during the past period of the direct revolutionary struggle of the masses. The overwhelming majority of the peasants cannot but strive for an agrarian revolution which would destroy semi-feudal landownership and which cannot be achieved without the overthrow of tsarism. The triumph of the reaction has been particularly oppressive for the democratic elements of the peasantry, which is incapable of forming a solid organisation, but despite all oppression, despite the Black Hundred Duma, despite the extreme instability of the Trudoviki,<sup>1</sup> the revolutionary attitude of the peasant masses is clearly evidenced even in the debates in the Third Duma. The fundamental position of the proletariat in regard to the tasks of the bourgeois-democratic revolution in Russia remains unaltered: to guide the democratic peasantry, to wrest it from the influence of the liberal bourgeoisie, the Cadet Party,<sup>2</sup> which continues to draw ever closer to the Octobrists, notwithstanding the petty, private squabbles, and which quite recently has been striving to organise national liberalism and to support tsarism and reaction by chauvinist agitation. The resolution states that the struggle, as hitherto, is being waged for the complete abolition of the monarchy and the conquest of political power by the proletariat and the revolutionary peasantry.

The autocracy, as hitherto, is the principal enemy of the proletariat and of the whole of democracy. However, it would be a mistake to imagine that it remains unchanged. The Stolypin "constitution" and Stolypin's agrarian policy mark a new stage in the disintegration of the old, semi-patriarchal, semi-feudal tsarism, a new step on the road towards its transformation into a bourgeois monarchy. The delegates from the Caucasus, who wished either to delete such a characterisation of the present situation or to substitute "plutocratic" for "bourgeois," were wrong.\* The autocracy

<sup>1</sup> Group of Toil: the peasant representatives in the Duma largely akin to the Socialist Revolutionaries.—*Ed Eng ed*

<sup>2</sup> The Constitutional Democratic Party.—*Ed Eng ed*

has for a long time past been *plutocratic*, but it is only after the first stage of the revolution, under the influence of its blows, that the autocracy is becoming *bourgeois*, both in its agrarian policy and in its direct, nationally organised alliance with certain strata of the bourgeoisie. The autocracy has been nursing the bourgeoisie for a long time now, the bourgeoisie, with the help of the ruble, has long been gaining access to "high quarters" and influence on legislation and administration as well as high places by the side of the noble aristocracy, but the peculiar feature of the present situation is that the autocracy was forced to set up a representative assembly for certain strata of the bourgeoisie, to juggle between them and the feudal landlords and to set up an alliance of these sections in the Duma, it was forced to abandon all the hopes it had placed in the patriarchalism of the muzhik and to seek support against the rural masses among the rich peasants, who are ruining the peasant commune.

The autocracy cloaks itself with pseudo constitutional institutions, but at the same time its class essence is being exposed as never before, owing to the alliance concluded by the tsar with the Purishkeviches and the Guchkovs<sup>1</sup> and with no one else. The autocracy attempts to take upon itself the fulfilment of those tasks of the bourgeois revolution which are objectively necessary—the setting up of a people's representative assembly which would really manage the affairs of bourgeois society, and the purging of the countryside of mediæval, entangled and antiquated agrarian relations, but the practical results of these new steps taken by the autocracy are, so far, exactly nil, and this shows still more clearly that other forces and other means are necessary for the fulfilment of the historical task. In the minds of millions of people who are inexperienced in politics, the autocracy was hitherto contrasted with popular representation in general, now, the struggle narrows its aims and more concretely defines its task as the struggle for power in the state, which determines the very character and meaning of representation. That is why the Third Duma marks a special

<sup>1</sup> Purishkevich, a Bessarabian landlord, extreme reactionary, leader of the League of Russian People, better known as the Black Hundreds; Guchkov, leader of the moderate liberal Octobrist Party.—Ed Eng ed

stage in the disintegration of old tsarism, in the intensification of its spirit of adventurism, in the deepening of the old revolutionary tasks, in enlarging the field of the struggle (and the numbers taking part in the struggle) for these tasks

We must get over this stage, the new conditions of the present period require new forms of struggle, the use of the Duma tribune is an absolute necessity, the prolonged task of educating and organising the masses of the proletariat assumes prime importance, the combination of illegal and legal organisations raises special problems before the Party, the popularisation and explanation of the experience of the revolution, which is being discredited by the liberals and by the liquidator intellectuals, are necessary both for theoretical and practical purposes. But the tactical line of the Party—which must be able to take into account the new conditions in applying the methods and means of struggle—remains unchanged. The correctness of revolutionary Social Democratic tactics, states one of the resolutions of the conference, is confirmed by the experience of the mass struggle in 1905-07. The defeat of the revolution, at the close of this first campaign, revealed that it was not that the tasks were wrong, not that the immediate aims were “utopian,” or that the methods and means were incorrect, but that there was insufficient preparation of forces, inadequate breadth and depth of the revolutionary crisis—and on its deepening and widening Stolypin and Co. are working with most praiseworthy zeal! Let the liberals and terrified intellectuals lose heart after the first genuinely mass battle for freedom, let them repeat like cowards: don’t go where you have been beaten before, don’t tread that fatal path again. The class-conscious proletariat will answer them: the great wars in history, the great revolutionary problems were solved only by the advanced classes returning to the attack again and again, and they achieved victory after having learned the lessons of defeat. Defeated armies learn well. The revolutionary classes of Russia have been defeated in their first campaign, but the revolutionary situation remains. In new forms and by other ways, sometimes much more slowly than we would wish, the revolutionary crisis is approaching once more, is maturing again. We must carry out the prolonged task of preparing larger

masses for the revolutionary crisis, this preparation must be more serious, taking into consideration the higher and more concrete tasks, and the more successfully we fulfil this task, the more certain will be our victory in the new struggle. The Russian proletariat may be proud of the fact that in 1905, under its leadership, a nation of slaves for the first time transformed itself into a mighty host attacking tsarism, into an army of the revolution. And now the same proletariat will know how to carry out persistently, staunchly and patiently the work of educating and training new cadres of a mightier revolutionary force.

As we have said already, the using of the Duma tribune is a necessary, component part of this work of education and training. The resolution of the conference on the Duma fraction indicates to our Party that road which comes nearest—if we were to seek instances in history—to the experiences of German Social Democracy at the time of the Anti Socialist Law.\* The illegal Party must know how to use, it must learn how to use, the legal Duma fraction, it must train the latter to be a Party organisation equal to its tasks. The most mistaken tactics, the most regrettable deviation from consistent proletarian work as dictated by the conditions of the present period, would be to raise the question of recalling the fraction from the Duma (there were two *otzovists*<sup>1</sup> at the conference, but they did not raise the question openly) or to refrain from directly and openly criticising its mistakes and from enumerating them in the resolution (as some delegates insisted at the conference<sup>2</sup>). The resolution fully recognises that the fraction has committed mistakes for which it was not alone to blame and which were quite similar to the inevitable mistakes of all our Party organisations. But there are other mistakes—deviations from the *political line* of the Party. Since such deviations occurred, since they were made by an organisation openly acting in the name of the whole Party, the Party was bound to declare clearly and definitely that these were deviations. In the history of West European Socialist Parties, instances of ab

<sup>1</sup> From the Russian word *otzvat*, meaning to recall. The term applied to a group of Bolsheviks who demanded the recall of the Social Democratic deputies from the Duma.—Ed. Eng. ed.

<sup>2</sup> The Mensheviks.—Ed.



normal relations between the parliamentary fractions and the Party have occurred more than once, to this very day these relations are quite often abnormal in the Latin countries<sup>1</sup> where the fractions do not display sufficient Party spirit. We must from the very outset organise Social Democratic parliamentarism in Russia on a different basis, we must at once establish team work in this field, so that every Social Democratic deputy may really feel that the Party is backing him, that the Party is distressed over his mistakes, and takes care to straighten his path—so that every Party worker may take part in the general Duma work of the Party, learning from the business-like Marxian criticism of its steps, feeling it his duty to assist it, and striving to subordinate the special work of the fraction to Party propaganda and agitational activity as a whole.

The conference was the first authoritative meeting of delegates from the biggest Party organisations, which discussed the activities of the Social Democratic Duma fraction for the whole session. And the decision of the conference shows very clearly how our Party will shape its Duma work, how very exacting it will be in this field in relation both to itself and to the fraction, how undeviatingly and consistently it proposes to work on fostering genuinely Social Democratic parliamentarism.

The question of our attitude to the Duma fraction has a tactical and an organisational aspect. In the latter respect the resolution on the Duma fraction is only the application of the general principles of our organisational policy to a particular case, principles laid down by the conference in the resolution giving instructions on the question of organisation. The conference has recorded two fundamental tendencies in the Russian Social Democratic Labour Party on this question: one of them shifts the centre of gravity to the illegal Party organisation, the other—which is more or less akin to liquidationism—shifts the centre of gravity to the legal and semi-legal organisations. The fact is that the present situation is characterised, as we have already pointed out, by the exit from the Party of a certain number of Party workers, especially intellectuals,

<sup>1</sup> Italy, France, Spain, Portugal, Rumania.—*Fd*

but partly also proletarians. The liquidators raise the question as to whether it is the best, the most active elements that are abandoning the Party and choosing the legal organisations as their field of activity, or whether it is the "vacillating intellectual and petty bourgeois elements" that are leaving the Party. Needless to say, by determinedly rejecting and condemning liquidationism, the conference replied that it was the latter elements. The most proletarian elements of the Party, and those elements of the intelligentsia that were most consistent in principle and most Social Democratic, remained true to the Russian Social Democratic Labour Party. The desertions from the Party mean its purification, they mean getting rid of the least constant, of the unreliable friends, of the "camp followers" (*Mitläufer*), who always joined the proletariat for a while and who were recruited from among the petty bourgeois or from among the "*declassés*," i.e., people thrown out of the orbit of some definite class.

From this evaluation of the principle of Party organisation logically follows the line of organisational policy adopted by the conference. To strengthen the illegal Party organisation, to create Party nuclei in all spheres of work, to create in the first instance "purely Party committees consisting of workers, even if their number be small, in each industrial enterprise," to concentrate the leading functions in the hands of leaders of the Social Democratic movement from the ranks of the workers themselves—such is the task today. And, of course, the task of these nuclei and committees must be to utilise all the semi legal and, as far as possible, legal organisations, to maintain the "closest contact with the masses," and to direct the work in such a way that Social Democracy responds to all the needs of the masses. Every nucleus and every Party workers' committee must become a "base for agitation, propaganda and practical organisational work among the masses," i.e., they must go where the masses are and try at every step to push the consciousness of the latter in the direction of socialism, linking up every specific question with the general tasks of the proletariat, transforming every organisational undertaking into the cause of

*class* consolidation, thus winning by their energy and ideological influence (not by their rank and title, of course) the leading role in all the proletarian legal organisations. Even if these nuclei and committees be very few in number at times, they will be linked together by Party tradition, Party organisation and a definite class programme, and even two or three Social Democratic members of the Party will be able, instead of becoming dissolved in the amorphous legal organisation, to pursue their *Party* line under all conditions and circumstances and in all kinds of situations, to influence their environment in the spirit of the whole Party, and not allow themselves to be swamped by this environment.

Though mass organisations of one type or another may be dissolved, though the legal trade unions may be stamped out, though any open venture of the workers under the regime of counter revolution may be foiled by police captiousness—no power on earth can prevent the concentration of masses of workers in a capitalist country, and Russia has already become such a country. One way or another, legally or semi-legally, openly or covertly, the working class will find its own rallying points, the class conscious Party Social Democrats will everywhere and always march in front of the masses, everywhere and always act in solidarity in order to exercise influence over the masses in the Party spirit. And Social Democracy which has proved in open revolution that it is the party of the class, the party that succeeded in leading millions in strikes, in the uprising of 1905, as well as in the elections of 1906-07, will now also be able to remain the party of the class, the party of the masses, the vanguard, which in the hardest times will not separate itself from the bulk of the army, but will know how to help the latter overcome these hard times, consolidate its ranks once more, and train ever more and more new fighters.

Let the hounds of the Black Hundred rejoice and howl both in side and outside the Duma, in the capital and in out of the way places, let the reaction rage—the wise Mr Stolypin cannot take a single step without bringing nearer the fall of the equilibrating autocracy, without forming new tangles of political impossibilities

and absurdities, without adding new and fresh forces to the ranks of the proletariat and to the ranks of the revolutionary elements of the peasant masses. The party which succeeds in consolidating itself for persistent work in contact with the masses, the party of the advanced class, the party which succeeds in organising the vanguard of this class and directs its forces in such a way as to exercise influence in a Social Democratic spirit over every manifestation in the life of the proletariat—such a party will win no matter what happens.

February [January] 1909

## DRAFT RESOLUTION ON THE PRESENT SITUATION AND THE TASKS OF THE PARTY<sup>1</sup>

THE present political situation is characterised by the following features

a) The old feudal autocracy is developing and becoming transformed into a bourgeois monarchy which cloaks absolutism with pseudo constitutional forms. The alliance between tsarism, the Black Hundred landlords and the upper strata of the commercial industrial bourgeoisie has been publicly consolidated and recognised by the *coup d'etat* of June 16 [3] and by the establishment of the Third Duma. Forced by necessity definitely to take the path of the capitalist development of Russia, and striving to keep to this path so that the power and incomes of the feudal landlords might be preserved, the autocracy is manœuvring between this class and the representatives of capital. Their petty squabbles are utilised to prop up absolutism, which together with these classes wages a furious counter revolutionary struggle against the Social Democratic proletariat and the democratic peasantry, who revealed their strength in the recent mass struggle.

b) The agrarian policy of present day tsarism is similarly distinguished by its bourgeois Bonapartist character \*. It has lost all faith in the naive devotion of the peasant masses to the monarchy. It seeks an alliance with the rich peasants and surrenders the villages to them to be plundered. The autocracy is making convulsive efforts to break up all communal allotment landownership as soon as possible and to strengthen exclusively private property in land. Such a policy renders all the contradictions of capitalism in the village a hundred times more acute and accelerates the division of the village into an insignificant minority of reactionaries, on the

<sup>1</sup> See note to page 3 \*—Ed Eng ed

inadequate, an attitude of indifference towards the political struggle in general, and of particularly strong indifference towards the Duma work of Social Democracy, set in among a section of the working class

It is under such conditions that so called otzovism and ultimatumism may meet with temporary success among these sections of the proletariat.

The proceedings of the Third Duma, which openly mocks at the needs of the workers, enhance the otzovist mood among the same sections of the workers, who, owing to their inadequate Social Democratic training, are as yet unable to grasp the fact that the very proceedings of the Third Duma provide the Social Democrats with the opportunity to utilise that representative assembly of the exploiting classes in a revolutionary manner, for the purpose of exposing before the broadest sections of the people the real nature of the autocracy and of all the counter revolutionary forces, as well as the need for revolutionary struggle

Moreover, the otzovist mood among this section of the workers has been fostered by the exceedingly grave errors committed by the Social Democratic Duma fraction, especially during the first year of its activity

Recognising that this otzovist attitude has a detrimental effect on the socialist and revolutionary training of the working class, the Bolshevik fraction considers it necessary

a) *in regard to those sections of the workers*, to persevere in the work of Social Democratic training and organisation, to explain systematically and persistently the utter political futility of otzovism and ultimatumism, the real significance of Social Democratic parliamentarism and the role of the Duma tribune for the Social Democrats during the period of counter revolution,

b) *in regard to the Social Democratic Duma fraction and Duma work in general*, to establish close connections between the Duma fraction and the advanced workers, to render it every assistance, to see to it that the whole Party supervises and brings pressure upon it, *inter alia*, by openly explaining its mistakes, to see to it that the Party guides the activities of the fraction as a Party organ

and, generally, to see to it that the Bolsheviks carry out the decisions of the last Party conference on this matter, for only the increased attention of working class circles to the activities of the Social Democratic Duma fraction, and their organised participation in the Duma activities of the Social Democrats, can really straighten out the tactics of our Duma fraction,

c) *in regard to the Right wing of the Party*, which is dragging the Duma fraction on to an anti Party road and by that is tearing it away from the workers' vanguard, to wage a systematic, irreconcilable struggle against it, and to expose these tactics which are fatal to the Party

\* \* \*

In the course of the bourgeois democratic revolution our Party was joined by a number of elements that were not attracted by its purely proletarian programme, but mainly by its glorious and energetic fight for democracy, these elements adopted the revolutionary democratic slogans of the proletarian party, but without connecting them with the entire struggle of the socialist proletariat as a whole

Such elements, which are not sufficiently imbued with the proletarian point of view, were also found in the ranks of our Bolshevik faction. In these troubled times such elements more and more display their lack of Social Democratic consistency, and, coming into ever sharper contradiction with the fundamentals of revolutionary Social Democratic tactics, have been, during the past year, creating a tendency which is trying to give shape to the theory of otzovism and ultimatumism, but which in fact is only elevating to a principle and intensifying false notions about Social Democratic parliamentarism and the work of Social Democracy in the Duma.

These attempts to transform an otzovist mood into a complete system of otzovist policy lead to the theory which in essence expresses the ideology of political indifference, on the one hand, and of anarchist vagaries, on the other. In spite of all its revolutionary phraseology the theory of otzovism and ultimatumism in reality represents, to a considerable extent, the reverse side of constitutional illusions based on the hope that the State Duma

itself can satisfy certain urgent needs of the people, and, in essence, it substitutes petty bourgeois tendencies for proletarian ideology

No less harmful to the Social Democratic cause than open otzovism is so-called ultimatumism (*i.e.*, that tendency which on principle renounces the utilisation of the tribune of the Third Duma, or which on grounds of expediency tries to justify its failure to carry out this duty, and, while striving for the recall of the Social Democratic fraction from the Duma, substitutes the issuing of an immediate ultimatum for the prolonged task of training the Duma fraction and straightening its line) Politically, ultimatumism at the present time is indistinguishable from otzovism, it only introduces greater confusion and disintegration by the disguised character of its otzovism. The attempts of ultimatumism to link itself up directly with boycottism, which was practised by our fraction during a certain period of the revolution, merely distort the real meaning and character of the boycott of the Bulygin and the First State Dumas, which was quite correctly applied by the overwhelming majority of our Party By their attempt to deduce from the specific application of the boycott of representative institutions at this or that moment of the revolution that the policy of boycotting is the distinguishing feature of Bolshevik tactics in the period of counter revolution also—ultimatumism and otzovism demonstrate that these trends are in essence the reverse side of Menshevism, which preaches indiscriminate participation in all representative institutions irrespective of the given stage of development of the revolution, irrespective of the absence or presence of a revolutionary upsurge.

All the attempts made so far by otzovism and ultimatumism to base their theory on grounds of principle have inevitably led to a negation of the fundamentals of revolutionary Marxism The tactics proposed by them inevitably lead to a complete break with the tactics of the Left wing of international Social Democracy as applied to present-day Russian conditions, and they lead to anarchist deviations

Otzovist ultimatumist agitation has already begun to cause def



inite harm to the labour movement and to Social Democratic work. If it continues it may become a menace to Party unity, for this agitation has already given rise to such monstrous phenomena as the alliance between the otzovists and the Socialist Revolutionaries (in St Petersburg\*) for the purpose of preventing assistance being given to our Party representatives in the Duma, likewise it has led to their appearing publicly before the workers jointly with avowed syndicalists.

In view of all this, the enlarged editorial board of *Proletary* declares that Bolshevism as a definite tendency within the Russian Social Democratic Labour Party has nothing in common with otzovism and ultimatumism, and that the Bolshevik faction must more resolutely combat these deviations from the path of revolutionary Marxism.

## II THE TASKS OF THE BOLSHEVIKS IN THE PARTY

In the epoch of the complete triumph of the counter revolution which was ushered in after the dispersion of the Second Duma, force of circumstances compelled all Party activities to be concentrated on the following task: to preserve the Party organisation created in the years of the high tide of the proletarian struggle, despite all the efforts of the reaction, and notwithstanding the great depression in the proletarian class struggle, i.e., to preserve it as an organisation which consciously stands on the basis of orthodox Marxism and which unites all the "national" Social Democratic organisations for the purpose of carrying out unified revolutionary Social Democratic tactics.

In the course of this two years' struggle for the Party and for the Party spirit, it became quite clear that, on the one hand, the Party dissociated itself from the elements that had penetrated it as a result of the special conditions of the bourgeois democratic revolution, and that, on the other hand, the revolutionary Social Democrats had further consolidated themselves. On the one hand, the former fellow travellers of Social Democracy became definitely crystallised, i.e., those who, on leaving the Party, transferred their

activities entirely to various legally existing organisations (co-operatives, trade unions, educational societies, commissions of the Duma fraction), and in these not only failed to carry out the policy of the Party but, on the contrary, fought the Party, and strove to wrest these organisations from the Party and to oppose them to the Party. Making a fetish of legality, and elevating to a principle the narrow forms of activity forced upon us by the temporary depression and the scattered state of the labour movement, these elements—avowed liquidators of the Party—quite obviously took their stand upon the ground of theoretical and tactical revisionism. That the closest connection exists between organisational liquidationism (the struggle against the Party institutions) and the ideological struggle against Marxian theory and the fundamental principles of the programme of the Russian Social Democratic Labour Party—is now most clearly revealed and proved by the entire history of the efforts of its intellectual advisers to force an opportunist policy on our Duma fraction,\* as well as by the entire course of the struggle between the liquidators and the Party members within the legal labour organisations and in the workers' groups of the four congresses of the people's universities, of the co-operatives, of the women and of the factory medical inspectors \*\*

On the other hand, the Left wing of the Party, to whose lot it fell to lead the Party during this period of the decisive triumph of the counter revolution, theoretically recognised and carried into effect the tactics of expediently combining illegal with legal Party work. This applies to all the Party work with the Duma fraction and all the Party work in the legal and semi legal proletarian organisations. It is precisely these forms of work that have been brought to the forefront by the peculiar conditions of the present historical situation as the forms by which the illegal Party, in addition to the main forms, can influence more or less broad masses. It is precisely in these forms of activity that the Party, in practice, comes into conflict with liquidationism and deals it palpable blows. It is on this ground also that Social Democrats of

various Party factions have been and are being drawn together<sup>1</sup> And here, finally, on the very same questions of Party tactics and organisation in the conditions of the Third Duma period, the Bolshevik faction openly disavows the pseudo revolutionary, unstable, non Marxian elements, which, under cover of so called "otzovism," have been opposing the new forms of Party activity

At the present time, in laying down the fundamental tasks of the Bolsheviks, the enlarged editorial board of *Proletary* declares

1) that in the further struggle for the Party and the Party spirit, the task of the Bolshevik faction, which must remain the foremost champion of the Party spirit and of the revolutionary Social Democratic line in the Party is actively to support the Central Committee and the central organ of the Party in every way In the present period of the regrouping of Party forces, only the central institutions of the entire Party can serve as the authoritative and strong representative of the Party line around which all the genuine Party and Social Democratic elements can be rallied,

2) that in the Menshevik camp of the Party, with the official organ of the faction, *Golos Sotsial Demokrata*,<sup>2</sup> completely captive to the Menshevik liquidators, the minority of the faction, having explored the path of liquidationism to the very end, is already raising its voice in protest against this path and is again seeking a Party basis for its activities (the letter of the "Vyborg" Mensheviks<sup>3</sup> in St Petersburg, the split among the Mensheviks in Moscow, the split in the editorial board of *Golos Sotsial Demokrata*, the corresponding division in the Bund, etc \*\*),

3) that under such circumstances, the task of the Bolsheviks, who will remain the solid vanguard of the Party, is not only to continue the struggle against liquidationism and all the varieties

<sup>1</sup> The resolutions on the trade unions, on the co-operatives and a number of resolutions on Duma activities were carried *unanimously* by the Central Committee The overwhelming majority at the last All Russian Conference supported the Party line The experience in conducting the central organ, the workers' groups of the said congresses, etc \*

<sup>2</sup> *Voice of the Social Democrat*—Ed Eng ed

<sup>3</sup> The Mensheviks in the Vyborg district of St Petersburg—Ed Eng ed

of revisionism, but also to establish closer contact with the Marxian and Party elements of the other factions, in accordance with the dictates of the common aims in the struggle for the preservation and consolidation of the Russian Social Democratic Labour Party

July [June] 1909

## DRAFT RESOLUTION ON THE CONSOLIDATION OF THE PARTY AND OF ITS UNITY \*

THE editorial board of the central organ recognises that the consolidation of our Party and of its unity may at the present time be achieved only by the *rapprochement*, which has already begun, between definite *factions* that are strong and influential in the practical labour movement, and not by a moralising whimpering for their abolition. This *rapprochement* must be achieved and developed on the basis of revolutionary Social Democratic *tactics* and an organisational policy aiming at a determined struggle against "Left" and "Right" liquidationism, especially against the latter, since the "Left," having already been defeated, represents a less serious danger.

November [October] 1909

## NOTES OF A PUBLICIST

### I THE "PLATFORM" OF THE ADHERENTS AND DEFENDERS OF OTZOVISM \*

A PAMPHLET published by the *Vperyod* group recently appeared in Paris under the title *The Present Situation and the Tasks of the Party A Platform Drawn Up by a Group of Bolsheviks*. This is the very same group of Bolsheviks (the new faction) whose formation was announced by the enlarged editorial board of *Proletary* in the spring of last year. Now this group, "consisting of fifteen Party members—seven workers and eight intellectuals" (as the group itself states), comes forward with an attempt to give a complete, systematic and positive exposition of its own special "platform." The text of this platform bears the clear imprint of careful, painstaking collective work in an effort to smooth out all roughnesses, to remove sharp edges and to stress not so much those points on which the group is at variance with the Party as those on which it is in agreement with the Party. All the more valuable, therefore, is the new platform, as the official presentation of the views of a certain trend.

This group of Bolsheviks first gives its own "interpretation of the present historical situation of our country" (§I, pp 3 13), then it gives its own "interpretation of Bolshevism" (§II, pp 13 17). And it interprets the one and the other badly.

Take the first question. The view held by the Bolsheviks (and by the Party) is expounded in the resolution of the December Conference of 1908 on the present situation<sup>1</sup>. Do the authors of the new platform share the views expressed in that resolution? If they do, why do they not say so plainly? If they do, why did they draw

<sup>1</sup> See Lenin's draft of that resolution, passed by the conference with slight amendments which did not alter it in substance, present volume, pp 13 16—*Ed Eng ed*

up a separate platform, why did they set to work to give their own particular interpretation of the situation? If they do not share these views, then again why not state clearly in what particular respect the new group opposes the views held by the Party?

But the whole point is that the new group itself has no clear understanding of the import of that resolution. Unconsciously (or half consciously) the new group leans towards the views of the otzovists, which are *incompatible* with that resolution. In its pamphlet the new group does not give a popular exposition of all the propositions contained in that resolution, but only of a part of them, without grasping (perhaps even without noticing the importance of) the other part. The principal factors, which caused the Revolution of 1905, continue to operate—states the resolution. The new revolutionary crisis is maturing (clause "f"). The goal of the struggle remains—the overthrow of tsarism and the establishment of a republic, the proletariat must play the "leading" role in the struggle and must strive for the "conquest of political power" (clauses "e" and 1). The state of the world market and of world politics renders the "international situation more and more revolutionary" (clause "g"). These propositions are explained in a popular manner in the new platform and *to that extent* it goes hand in hand with the Bolsheviks and with the Party, *to that extent* it expresses correct views and performs useful work.

But the trouble is that we have to lay stress on this "to that extent." The trouble is that the new group *does not understand* the *other* points in the same resolution, does not grasp their connection with the remaining points, and, especially, it does not see their *connection* with that irreconcilable attitude to otzovism which is characteristic of the Bolsheviks and which is not characteristic of this group.

Revolution has again become inevitable. The revolution must again strive for and achieve the overthrow of tsarism—say the authors of the new platform. Quite right. But that is not all that a *present day* revolutionary Social Democrat must know and bear in mind. He must be able to comprehend that this revolution is coming to us in a new way and that we must march towards it in a new way (in a different way than hitherto, not only in the way

we did before, not only with those weapons and means of struggle we used before), that the autocracy itself is not the same as it was before. It is just this point that the advocates of otzovism refuse to see. They persistently want to remain one-sided and thereby, in spite of themselves, consciously or unconsciously, they are rendering a service to the opportunists and liquidators, by their one-sidedness in one direction they are supporting one-sidedness in another direction.

The autocracy has entered a new historical period. It is taking a step towards its transformation into a bourgeois monarchy. The Third Duma represents an alliance with definite classes. The Third Duma is not a casual, but a necessary institution in the system of this new monarchy. Nor is the autocracy's new agrarian policy casual, it is a necessary, a bourgeois necessary, and necessary because of its bourgeois character, link in the policy of the new tsarism. We are confronted by a peculiar historical period with peculiar conditions for the birth of a new revolution. It will be impossible to master these peculiar conditions and prepare ourselves for this new revolution if we operate only in the old way, if we do not learn to utilise the Duma tribune itself, etc.

It is this last point that the otzovists cannot grasp. And the defenders of otzovism, who declare it to be a "legitimate shade of opinion" (p. 28 of the pamphlet under review), cannot even now grasp the connection this point has with a whole cycle of ideas, with the recognition of the peculiarities of the present moment and with the effort to take these peculiarities into account in determining tactics. They repeat that we are passing through an "inter-revolutionary period" (p. 29), that "the present situation" represents a "transitional situation between two waves of the democratic revolution" (p. 32), but they cannot understand what it is that is peculiar in this "transitional situation." However, unless we do understand this transition it will be impossible to overcome it with advantage to the revolution, it will be impossible for us to prepare for the new revolution, impossible to pass on to the second wave of the revolution! For the preparations for the new revolution cannot be restricted to reiterating the fact that it is inevitable, preparation must consist in devising such forms of propaganda,



*agitation and organisation as will take account of the peculiarities of this transitional situation*

Here is an instance of how people talk about the *transitional* situation without understanding what this *transition* actually is

"That there is no real constitution in Russia and that the Duma is only its phantom, devoid of power and importance, is not only well known to the masses of the population by dint of experience, it is now becoming obvious to the whole world" (P 11)

Compare this with the estimate of the Third Duma given in the December resolution

"The alliance between tsarism the Black Hundred landlords and the upper strata of the commercial industrial bourgeoisie has been publicly consolidated and recognised by the *coup d'état* of June 16 [3] and by the establishment of the Third Duma"

Is it really not "obvious to the whole world" that the authors of the platform did not, after all, understand the resolution, in spite of the fact that for a whole year it was chewed over and over again in the Party press in a thousand ways? And they failed to understand it, of course, not because they are dull witted, but because they labour under the strong influence of otzovism and of the otzovist cycle of ideas

Our Third Duma is a Black Hundred Octobrist Duma To assert that the Octobrists and the Black Hundreds have no "power and importance" in Russia (as the authors of the platform do in effect) is absurd The absence of a "real constitution" and the fact that the autocracy retains full power do not in the least preclude the peculiar historical position in which this government is forced to organise a counter revolutionary alliance of certain classes on a national scale, in openly functioning institutions of national importance, and in which certain classes are organising themselves from below into counter revolutionary *blocs* which are stretching out their hand to tsarism If the "alliance" between tsarism and these classes (an alliance which strives to preserve power and revenues for the feudal landlords) is a peculiar form of class rule and of the rule of the tsar and his gang during the present *transition* period, a form created by the bourgeois evolution of the country amidst the conditions of the defeat of the "first wave of

the revolution"—*then there can be no talk* of utilising the transition period without utilising the Duma tribune. The peculiar tactics of using the very tribune from which the counter revolutionaries speak *for* the purpose of preparing the revolution thus becomes *a duty* dictated by the peculiarities of the *entire* historical situation. If, however, the Duma is but the "phantom" of a constitution 'devoid of power and importance,' then there is really no *new* stage in the development of bourgeois Russia, of the bourgeois monarchy, or in the development of the form of rule of the upper classes, etc., in that case the otzovists are, of course, correct *in principle*.

Do not imagine that the passage we quoted from the platform was a slip of the pen. In a special chapter, "On the State Duma" (pp. 25-28), we read in the very beginning

"All the State Dumas have hitherto been institutions devoid of all real power and authority, and did not express the real interrelation of social forces in the country. The government convened them under the pressure of the popular movement in order, on the one hand to turn the excitement of the masses from the path of direct struggle into peaceful election channels, and on the other hand, in order to come to terms in these Dumas with those social groups which could support the government in its struggle against the revolution."

This is a whole tangle of confused ideas or of fragments of ideas. Since the government convened the Dumas in order to come to terms with the counter revolutionary classes, it follows precisely that the First and Second Dumas had *no* "power and authority" (to help the revolution), whereas the Third Duma *possessed and possesses* power and authority (to help the counter revolution). The revolutionaries could have (and in certain circumstances should have) refrained from participating in an institution which was powerless to help the revolution. This is indisputable. By bracketing such institutions of the revolutionary period with the Duma of the "inter revolutionary period" which has the power to help the counter revolution, the authors of the platform commit a monstrous error. They apply the correct Bolshevik arguments precisely to those cases to which they are really inapplicable! This is exactly what we mean when we say—making a caricature of Bolshevism

In summing up their "interpretation" of Bolshevism, the authors of the platform have even put in a special clause, e (p 16), in which this "caricature" of revolutionariness has found, we might say, its classical expression Here is this clause in full

"e) Pending the completion of the revolution, no semi-legal or legal methods and means of struggle of the working class including also participation in the State Duma, can have any independent or decisive importance, they can only serve as a means of gathering and preparing the forces for the direct, revolutionary, open mass struggle "

This implies that *after* the "completion of the revolution" legal methods of struggle, "including" parliamentarism, *may* have independent and decisive importance!

That is wrong Not even then The platform of the *Vperyod* group is just nonsense

Furthermore, it follows that "pending the completion of the revolution" all means of struggle, *except* the legal and semi-legal, *i e*, *all the illegal* means of struggle, *may* have independent and decisive importance!

This is wrong There are certain illegal methods of struggle, which, even *after* the "completion of the revolution" (for example, the illegal propaganda circles) and "pending the completion of the revolution" (for example, the seizure of money from the enemy, or the forcible liberation of the arrested, or the assassination of spies, etc ), cannot "have any independent or decisive importance, they can *only* serve," etc , as in the text of the "*platform* "

To proceed What "completion of the revolution" is referred to here? Obviously, *not* the completion of the socialist revolution, for then there will be no struggle of the working class, since there will be no classes at all Obviously then, reference is made to the completion of the *bourgeois democratic* revolution Now let us see what the authors of the platform "meant" by *completion* of the bourgeois democratic revolution

Generally speaking, this term may be taken to mean two things If used in its broad sense, it means the fulfilment of the objective historical tasks of the bourgeois revolution, its "completion," *i e*, the removal of the very soil capable of generating a bourgeois

revolution, the completion of the *entire cycle* of bourgeois revolutions. In this sense the bourgeois democratic revolution, for example in France was *completed* only in 1871 (though begun in 1789\*) But if the term is used in its narrow sense, it means a particular revolution, one of the bourgeois revolutions, one of the "waves," if you like, which batter the old regime but do not destroy it altogether, do not remove the soil that may generate subsequent bourgeois revolutions. In this sense the Revolution of 1848 in Germany was "completed" in 1850 or the 'fifties, but it did not in the least thereby remove the soil for the revolutionary revival in the 'sixties. The Revolution of 1789 in France was "completed," let us say, in 1794, without, however, thereby removing the soil for the revolutions of 1830 and 1848.

No matter how the words of the platform, "pending the completion of the revolution," are interpreted, whether in their wider or their narrower sense, there is no sense in them in either case. Needless to say, it would be altogether absurd to attempt now to determine the tactics of revolutionary Social Democracy for the whole period of the entire cycle of possible bourgeois revolutions in Russia. And as to the revolutionary "wave" of 1905-07, *i.e.*, the first bourgeois revolution in Russia, the platform itself is forced to admit that "it [the autocracy] has beaten back the first wave of the revolution" (p. 12), that we are passing through an "inter revolutionary" period, a period "between two waves of a democratic revolution."

Now what is the source of this endless and inextricable tangle in the "platform"? It is precisely the fact that the platform diplomatically dissociates itself from otzovism without abandoning the cycle of ideas of otzovism, without correcting its fundamental error and without even noticing it. It is precisely because the *Vperyod* ists regard otzovism as a "legitimate shade of opinion," *i.e.*, they regard the otzovist shade of the caricature of Bolshevism as a *law*, a model, an unexcelled model. He who has stepped on to this inclined plane irresistibly rolls down and will continue to roll down into the quagmire of inextricable confusion—and he is repeating words and slogans without being able to ponder over

the conditions of their application and the limits of their importance

Why, for example, did the Bolsheviks in 1906-07 so often oppose the opportunists with the slogan, "the revolution is not over"? Because the objective conditions were such that the completion of the revolution in the narrow sense of that word was out of the question. Take, for instance, the period of the Second Duma—the most revolutionary parliament in the world and probably the most reactionary, autocratic government. There was no direct way out of this except by a *coup d'état* from above, or by an uprising from below. And however much the very wise pedants may now shake their heads, the fact is that no one could say beforehand whether the government's *coup d'état* would be successful, whether it would pass off smoothly, whether or not Nicholas II would break his neck in the attempt. The slogan, "the revolution is not over," had a most vital, immediately important, practically palpable significance, for it *alone* correctly expressed things as they were and whither they were moving by virtue of the objective logic of events. And now that the otzovists themselves recognise the present situation as being "inter-revolutionary," does not the attempt to represent otzovism as a "legitimate shade of the revolutionary wing," "pending the completion of the revolution," betray hopeless confusion?

In order to extricate oneself from this vicious circle of contradictions, one must not play at diplomacy with otzovism, but must cut its ideological basis from under its feet, one must adopt the point of view of the December resolution and think it out to the end. The present inter-revolutionary period cannot be explained away as a mere accident. There is no doubt now that a special stage in the development of the autocracy has set in, in the development of the bourgeois monarchy, bourgeois Black Hundred parliamentarism, the bourgeois policy of tsarism in the rural districts, and that the counter-revolutionary bourgeoisie is supporting it all. The present period is undoubtedly a *transition* period "between two waves of the revolution," but in order to prepare for the second revolution we must master the peculiarities of this transition, we must be able to adapt our tactics and organisation to

this difficult, hard, obscure transition forced on us by the whole course of the "campaign" The utilisation of the Duma tribune, as well as of any of the other legal possibilities, is one of the humble methods of struggle which do not result in anything "striking" But the transition period is transitory precisely because its specific task is to prepare and rally the *forces*, and not to bring them into immediate and decisive action To know how to organise this work, which is devoid of outward glamour, to know how to utilise for this purpose all those semi legal institutions which are peculiar to the period of the Black Hundred Octobrist Duma, to know how to maintain *even on this basis* all the traditions of revolutionary Social Democracy, all the slogans of its recent heroic past, the entire spirit of its work, its irreconcilability with opportunism and reformism—such is the *task of the Party*, such is the task of the present moment

We have examined the new platform's first deviation from the tactics expounded in the resolution of the December Conference of 1908 We have seen that this is a deviation towards otzovist ideas, ideas that have nothing in common either with the Marxian analysis of the present situation or with the fundamental premises of revolutionary Social Democratic tactics in general Now we must examine the second original feature of the new platform

This feature is—the task, proclaimed by the new group, of "creating" and "disseminating among the masses a new, proletarian" culture, "of developing proletarian science, of strengthening genuine comradely relations among the proletarians, of developing a proletarian philosophy, of directing art towards proletarian aspirations and experience" (P 17)

Here you have an example of that naive diplomacy which in the new programme serves to cover up the essence of the matter! Is it not really naive to insert "of strengthening genuine comradely relations" *between* "science" and "philosophy"? The new group introduces *into the platform* its supposed grievances, its accusation against the other groups (namely, against the orthodox Bolsheviks in the first place) that *they* have broken "genuine comradely relations" Such is precisely the *real* content of this amusing clause

Here "proletarian science" also looks "sad and out of place"

First of all, we know now of only one proletarian science—Marxism. For some reason the authors of the platform systematically avoid this, the only precise term, and everywhere use the words “scientific socialism” (Pp 13, 15, 16, 20, 21). It is common knowledge that even outright opponents of Marxism lay claim to this latter term in Russia. In the second place, if the task of developing “proletarian science” is introduced into the platform, it is necessary to state plainly just what contemporary, ideological, theoretical struggle is meant here and whose side the authors of the platform take. Silence on this point is a naive subterfuge, for the *essence of the matter* is obvious to everyone who is acquainted with the literature of Social Democracy in 1908-09. In our time a struggle between the Marxists and the Machists has come to the fore and is being waged in the domain of science, philosophy and art.\* It is ridiculous, to say the least, to shut one's eyes to this commonly known fact. “Platforms” should be written not in order to gloss over differences but in order to explain them.

Our authors clumsily give themselves away by the above quoted passage of the platform. Everyone knows that it is precisely *Machism* that is *really* implied by the term “proletarian philosophy”—and every intelligent Social Democrat will at once decipher the “new” *pseudonym*. It was no use inventing this pseudonym, no use trying to hide behind it. In fact, the most influential literary nucleus of the new group is Machian, and it regards non Machian philosophy as non “proletarian.”

If they wanted to talk about it in the platform, they should have said the new group unites those who will fight against the non “proletarian,” *i.e.*, non Machian, theories in philosophy and art. That would have been a straightforward, truthful and open declaration of a well known *ideological* trend, an open challenge to the other tendencies. When an ideological struggle is held to be of great importance for the Party, one does not hide but comes out with an open declaration of war.

And we shall call upon everyone to give a definite, clear answer to the disguised declaration of a philosophical struggle against Marxism in the platform. *In reality*, all the phrases about “proletarian culture” are intended precisely to cloak the *struggle against*

*Machism* The "original" feature of the new group is that it has introduced *philosophy* into the Party platform without stating openly *what* tendency in philosophy it advocates

Incidentally, it would be incorrect to say that the real content of the words of the platform quoted above is wholly negative. They have a certain positive content. This positive content can be expressed in one word: M. Gorky.

Indeed, there is no need to conceal the fact already noised abroad by the bourgeois press (which has distorted and twisted it), namely, that M. Gorky is one of the adherents of the new group.\* And Gorky is undoubtedly the greatest representative of *proletarian* art, who has done a great deal for this art and is capable of doing still more in the future. Any faction of the Social Democratic Party would be justly proud of having Gorky as member, but to introduce "proletarian art" into the *platform* on this ground means giving this platform a certificate of poverty, means reducing one's group to a literary *circle*, which exposes itself as being precisely "authoritarian." The authors of the platform say a great deal against recognising authorities, without explaining directly what it is all about. The fact is that they regard the Bolsheviks' defence of materialism in philosophy and their struggle against *otzovism* as the undertaking of individual "authorities" (a slight hint at an important affair!) whom the enemies of *Machism* "trust blindly." Such sallies, of course, are quite childish. But it is precisely the *Vperyod*ists who treat authorities badly. Gorky is an authority in the domain of proletarian art—that is beyond dispute. The attempt to "utilise" (in the ideological sense, of course) *this* authority to strengthen *Machism* and *otzovism* is an *example* of how not to treat *authorities*. In the field of proletarian art M. Gorky is an enormous asset in spite of his sympathies for *Machism* and *otzovism*. But a platform which sets up within the Party a separate group of *otzovists* and *Machists* and advances the development of alleged "proletarian" art as a special task of the group is a *minus* in the development of the Social Democratic proletarian movement, because this platform wants to consolidate and utilise the very features in the activities of a great authority which represent his weak side and are a negative quan-



tity in the enormous sum of useful service he has rendered the proletariat

March 1910

## II THE "UNITY CRISIS" IN OUR PARTY \*

Upon reading this title, some reader perhaps will not, at first, believe his own eyes "As if that were wanting! What crises have we not had in our Party—and suddenly a new crisis, a *unity crisis*!"

The expression which sounds so strange is borrowed by me from Liebknecht. He used it in 1875 in his letter of May 3 to Engels, giving an account of the amalgamation of the Lassalleans and the Eisenachers \*\* Marx and Engels thought at that time that no good would come of that amalgamation. Liebknecht brushed aside their fears and asserted that the German Social Democratic Party, which had successfully survived all sorts of crises, would also survive the "unity crisis" (See Gustav Mayer, *Johann Baptist von Schweitzer und die Sozialdemokratie*, Jena, 1909, S. 424.)

There can be no doubt whatever that our Party too, the Russian Social Democratic Labour Party, will successfully survive its unity crisis. That it is now passing through such a crisis is obvious to everyone who is acquainted with the decisions of the plenary meeting of the Central Committee and with the events that followed the plenum. If one were to judge by the resolutions of the plenum, the amalgamation might seem to be most complete and fully accomplished. But if one were to judge by what is taking place now in the beginning of May 1910, if one were to judge by the determined struggle the central organ is waging against *Golos Sotsial Demokrata* which is published by the liquidators, if one were to judge by the controversy that has flared up between Plekhanov and the other Party Mensheviks, on the one hand, and the *Golos* group, on the other, or by the extremely abusive writings of the *Vperyod* group directed against the central organ (see the recent leaflet of the group, entitled *To the Bolshevik Comrades* \*\*\*), then *all* unity might easily appear to an outsider to be a mere phantom.

The avowed enemies of the Party are rejoicing. The *Vperyod*ists, who follow and cover up otzovism, indulge in unbridled abuse. Still more bitter is the abuse levelled by the leaders of the liquidators, Axelrod, Martynov, Martov, Potresov and others, in their *Necessary Supplement to Plekhanov's Diaries*\*. The "conciliators" are distressed, they complain and utter helpless phrases (See the resolution passed on April 30 [17], 1910, by the Vienna Social Democratic Party Club, which shares the viewpoint of Trotsky\*\*).

But the most important and fundamental question as to the reasons our Party amalgamation is developing in this and in no other way, why the (seemingly) complete unity at the plenum is now replaced by (seemingly) utter disunity, and also the question of what the trend of the further development of the Party should be in consequence of the "relation of forces" inside and outside our Party—these fundamental questions are not answered either by the liquidators (*Golos* group) or by the otzovists (*Vperyod* group) or the conciliators (Trotsky and the "Viennese").

Curses and phrases are no answer

### 1 Two Views on Unity

With touching unanimity the liquidators and the otzovists are roundly cursing the Bolsheviks (the liquidators are also cursing Plekhanov). The Bolsheviks are to blame, the Bolshevik centre<sup>1</sup> is to blame, the "individualistic" habits of Lenin and Plekhanov (p. 15 of the *Necessary Supplement*) are to blame as well as the "irresponsible group" of "former members of the Bolshevik centre" (see the leaflet of the *Vperyod* group). In this respect the liquidators and the otzovists are entirely at one, their *bloc* against orthodox Bolshevism (a *bloc* which more than once characterised the struggle at the plenum, to which I refer particularly later on) is an indisputable fact, the representatives of two extreme tendencies, both of them equally expressing their subordination to bourgeois ideas, both of them equally anti Party, are entirely at one in their internal Party policies, in their struggle against the Bolshe-

<sup>1</sup> See note to page 17\*—*Fd Eng ed*

viks and in proclaiming the central organ to be "Bolshevik." But the strongest curses of Axelrod and Alexinsky only cover up their complete failure to understand the meaning and importance of Party unity. Trotsky's (the Viennese) resolution only differs outwardly from the "effusions" of Axelrod and Alexinsky. It is drafted very "cautiously" and lays claim to "super factional" fairness. But what is its meaning? The "Bolshevik leaders" are to blame for everything—this is the same "philosophy of history" as that advocated by Axelrod and Alexinsky.

The very first paragraph of the Vienna resolution states

the representatives of all factions and trends by their decision" (at the plenum) 'consciously and deliberately assumed responsibility for carrying out the adopted resolutions in the present conditions, in co operation with the given persons groups and institutions.'

This refers to "conflicts in the central organ"\* Who is "responsible for carrying out the resolutions" of the plenum in the central organ? Obviously the majority of the central organ, i.e., the Bolsheviks and the Poles, it is they who are responsible for carrying out the resolutions of the plenum—"in co operation with the given persons," i.e., with the *Golos* and the *Vperyod* groups.

What does the principal resolution of the plenum say in that part of it which deals with the most "vexed" problems of our Party, with questions which were most disputable before the plenum and which should have become least disputable after the plenum?

It says that the bourgeois influence over the proletariat manifests itself, on the one hand, in the renunciation of the illegal Social Democratic Party and in belittling its role and importance, etc., and, on the other hand, in the renunciation of the Duma work of Social Democracy as well as the utilisation of the legal possibilities, the failure to grasp the importance of either, etc.

Now what is the meaning of this resolution?

Does it mean that the *Golos*ites should have sincerely and irrevocably renounced the negation of the illegal Party, ceased belittling it, etc., that they should have recognised this as a deviation, that they should have got rid of it, and done positive work in a spirit hostile to this deviation, that the *Vperyod*ists should have sincerely and irrevocably renounced the negation of

Duma work and of legal possibilities, etc., that the majority of the central organ should in every way have enlisted the "co operation" of the *Golos* ites and *Vperyod* ists *on condition* that they sincerely, consistently and irrevocably renounced the "deviation," described in detail in the resolution of the plenum?

Or does the resolution mean that the majority of the central organ is responsible for carrying out the resolution (on the overcoming of the liquidationist and otzovist deviations) "*in co operation with the given*" *Golos* ites, who *continue* as heretofore, and even more vulgarly, to defend liquidationism, or with the given *Vperyod* ists, who *continue* as heretofore, and even more vulgarly, to defend the legitimacy of otzovism, ultimatumism, etc.?

This question need only be put to enable one to see how hollow are the ringing phrases in Trotsky's resolution, to see how *in reality* they serve to defend the very position held by Axelrod and Co., and Alexinsky and Co.

In the very first words of his resolution Trotsky expressed the full spirit of the worst kind of conciliationism, "conciliationism" in quotation marks, conciliationism which smacks of narrow circles and philistinism, which, instead of dealing with the given line of policy, the given spirit, the given ideological and political content of Party work, deals with "given persons."

Now that is precisely where the enormous difference lies between the genuine Party spirit, which consists in purging the Party of liquidationism and otzovism, and the "conciliationism" of Trotsky and Co., which really renders a most faithful service to the liquidators and the otzovists, and therefore constitutes an evil all the more dangerous to the Party, the more cunningly, artfully and floridly it cloaks itself with professedly Party, professedly anti factional declamations.

Indeed, what is it that is given us as the task of the Party?

Is it "given persons, groups and institutions" that are "given" us and that are to be "reconciled" irrespective of their policy, irrespective of the content of their work, irrespective of their attitude towards liquidationism and otzovism?

Or are we given a definite Party line, the ideological and political direction and content of our entire work, as well as the task of purging this work of liquidationism and otzovism—a task that must be carried out irrespective of “persons, groups and institutions,” in spite of the opposition of “persons, institutions and groups,” which disagree with that policy or do not carry it out?

Two views are possible on the meaning of and conditions for the accomplishment of any kind of Party unity. It is extremely important to grasp the difference between these views, for, in the course of development of our “unity crisis,” they become entangled and confused and it is impossible to orientate ourselves in this crisis unless we draw a sharp line between the two views.

One view on unity may place in the forefront the “reconciliation” of “given persons, groups and institutions.” The identity of their views on Party work, on the policy of that work, is a matter of secondary importance. Differences of opinion must be hushed up, their causes, then significance, their objective conditions should not be elucidated. The principal thing is to “reconcile” persons and groups. If they do not agree upon the carrying out of a common policy, that policy must be interpreted in such a way as to be acceptable to all. Live and let live. This is philistine “conciliationism,” which inevitably leads to narrow circle diplomacy. To “stop up” the source of disagreement, to hush it up, to “adjust” “conflicts” at all costs, to neutralise the conflicting trends—it is to this that the main attention of such “conciliationism” is directed. In circumstances in which the illegal Party requires a base abroad for its operations, this narrow circle diplomacy opens wide the doors to “persons, groups and institutions” which play the part of “honest brokers” in all kinds of attempts at “conciliation” and “neutralisation.”

This is what Martov relates, in *Golos*, No. 19-20, of such an attempt at the plenum.

“The Mensheviks, *Pravda*ists and Bundists proposed such a composition of the central organ as would ensure the ‘neutralisation’ of the two opposite tendencies in the Party ideology, and would give no definite majority to any of them, thus forcing

the Party organ to work out, in relation to each essential question, that *middle course* which might unite the majority of Party workers”

As is known, the proposal of the Mensheviks was not adopted. Trotsky, who came forward as a candidate for the central organ in the capacity of *neutraliser*, was defeated. The candidature of a Bundist for the same post (the Mensheviks in their speeches proposed such a candidate) was not even put to the vote.

Such is the *actual* role played by those “conciliators,” in the bad sense of the word, who wrote the Vienna resolution and whose views are expressed in Yonov’s article in No. 4 of *Echoes of the Bund*,\* which I have just received. The Mensheviks *did not venture* to propose a central organ with a majority of *their own* following, although, as is seen from Martov’s argument above quoted, they recognised the existence of *two opposite trends* in the Party. The Mensheviks did not even think of proposing a central organ with a majority of *their* following. They did not even attempt to insist on a central organ with any definite trend at all (so obvious was the absence of any trend among the Mensheviks at the plenum—they were simply required and simply expected to make a sincere and consistent renunciation of liquidationism). The Mensheviks insisted on the “neutralisation” of the central organ and proposed as “neutralisers” either a Bundist or Trotsky. The Bundist or Trotsky was to play the part of matchmaker, who would have to “unite in wedlock” “given persons, groups and institutions,” irrespective of whether any of the sides had renounced liquidationism or not.

This standpoint of a matchmaker constitutes the entire “ideological basis” of Trotsky’s and Yonov’s conciliationism. When they complain and weep over the failure to achieve unity, it must be taken *cum grano salis*.<sup>1</sup> It must be taken to mean that the matchmaking failed. The “failure” of the hopes of unity cherished by Trotsky and Yonov, hopes of unity with “*given persons, groups and institutions*” irrespective of their attitude to liquidationism, means only the failure of the matchmakers, the falsity, the hopelessness,

<sup>1</sup> With a grain of salt—*Ed*

the wretchedness of the point of view of a matchmaker, but it does not at all signify the failure of Party unity

There is another view on this unity, namely, that a number of profound objective causes, long ago, independently of the manner in which the "given persons, groups and institutions" (submitted to the plenum and at the plenum) were constituted, began to bring about and are steadily continuing to bring about changes in the two old and principal Russian factions among the Social Democrats, changes that create—sometimes in spite of the will and even consciousness of some one of the "given persons, groups and institutions"—ideological and organisational bases for unity. These objective causes are rooted in the peculiarities of the present period of bourgeois development in Russia, the period of bourgeois counter revolution and attempts by the autocracy to reorganise it self on the model of a bourgeois monarchy. These objective conditions simultaneously cause changes that are indissolubly linked up with one another, changes in the character of the labour movement, in the composition, type and features of the proletarian Social Democratic vanguard, as well as changes in the ideological and political tasks of the Social Democratic movement. Therefore, that bourgeois influence over the proletariat which creates liquidationism (=semi liberalism which likes to be regarded as a part of Social-Democracy) and otzovism (=semi anarchism, which likes to be regarded as a part of Social Democracy) is not an accident, nor evil intention, stupidity or error on the part of some individual, but the inevitable result of the action of these objective causes, and the superstructure of the entire labour movement of present day Russia, which is inseparable from the "basis." The realisation of the danger of the un Social Democratic nature and of the harmfulness to the labour movement of both these deviations brings about a *rapprochement* between the elements of various factions and paves the way to Party unity "in spite of all obstacles."

From this point of view the unification of the Party may proceed slowly, with difficulties, vacillations, waverings, relapses, but it cannot but proceed. From this point of view the process of unification does not necessarily take place among the "given persons, groups and institutions," but irrespective of the given persons, sub-

ordinating them to itself, rejecting those of the "given" persons who do not understand or who do not want to understand the requirements of objective development, putting forward and attracting new persons, who do not belong to the "given" set, effecting changes, reshufflings and regroupings within the old factions, tendencies, divisions. From this point of view, unity is inseparable from its ideological foundation, it can grow only on the basis of an ideological *rapprochement*, it is connected with the appearance, development and growth of such deviations as liquidationism and otzovism, not by the casual ties of this or that controversy or this or that literary struggle, but by an internal, indissoluble tie such as that which binds cause and effect

## 2 "The Struggle on Two Fronts" and the Overcoming of Deviations

Such are the two fundamentally different and radically divergent views on the nature and significance of our Party unity

The question now is, which of these views forms the basis of the plenum resolution? Whoever wishes to ponder over it will perceive that it is the second view that forms *the basis*, but in some passages the resolution clearly reveals traces of partial "amendments," in the spirit of the first view. However, these "amendments," while *worsening* the resolution, *in no way remove its basis*, its principal content, which is thoroughly imbued with the second point of view

In order to demonstrate that this is so, that the "amendments" in the spirit of narrow circle diplomacy are really only partial amendments, that they do not alter the essence of the matter and the principle underlying the resolution, I shall deal with certain points and certain passages in the resolution on the state of affairs in the Party, which have already been dealt with in the Party press. I shall start from the end.

After accusing the "leaders of the old factions" of doing everything to prevent unity, of having behaved at the plenum, also, in such a way that "every inch of ground had to be taken from them by storm," Yonov writes



'Comrade Lenin did not want to overcome the dangerous deviations' by means of broadening and deepening Social Democratic activities' He strove quite energetically to put the theory of the 'struggle on two fronts' in the centre of Party activities He did not even think of abolishing 'the state of siege' within the Party' (P 22, art 1)

This refers to §4, clause "b," of the resolution on the situation in the Party \* The draft of this resolution was submitted to the Central Committee by myself, and the clause in question was altered by the plenum itself after the commission had finished its work, it was altered on the motion of Trotsky, against whom I fought without success In this clause I had, if not literally the words "struggle on two fronts," at all events, words to that effect The words "overcoming by means of broadening and deepening" were inserted on Trotsky's motion I am very glad that Comrade Yonov, by telling of my struggle against this proposal, gives me an opportunity to express my opinion on the meaning of the "amendment"

Nothing at the plenum aroused more furious—and often comical—indignation than the idea of a "struggle on two fronts" The very mention of this greatly excited both the *Vperyod* ists and the Mensheviks This indignation can be fully explained on historical grounds, for the Bolsheviks have *actually* carried on, from August 1908 to January 1910, a struggle on two fronts, *i.e.*, a struggle against the liquidators and the otzovists This indignation was comical because those who were angry with the Bolsheviks were thereby only proving their own guilt, showing that they were still feeling hurt by every condemnation of liquidationism and otzovism A guilty conscience is never at ease

Trotsky's motion to substitute "overcoming by means of broadening and deepening" for the struggle on two fronts met with the hearty support of the Mensheviks and the *Vperyod* ists

And now Yonov and *Pravda* and the Vienna resolution and *Golos Sotsial Demokrata* are all rejoicing over that "victory" But the question arises have they, by deleting from this clause the words about the struggle on two fronts, eliminated from the resolution the recognition of the need for that struggle? *Not at all*, for since the "deviations," their "danger," and the necessity of "explaining" that danger are recognised, and since it is also recognised

that these deviations are a "manifestation of bourgeois influence over the proletariat"—all this *in effect* means precisely the recognition of the struggle on two fronts. In one passage an "unpleasant" term (unpleasant to one or other of *their* friends) was altered, but the basic idea was left intact! The result was only that one part of one clause was confused, watered down and changed for the worse by a phrase.

Indeed, it is nothing but a phrase and helpless evasion when the given section speaks of overcoming by means of broadening and deepening the work. There is no clear idea in this. The work must certainly be broadened and deepened at all times, the entire *third* section of the resolution\* deals with this in detail before it passes on to the specific "ideological and political tasks," which are not always or absolutely imperative, but are generated by the specific conditions of the particular period. Section 4 deals only with these special tasks, and in the preamble to all of its three points it is directly stated that "in their turn" these ideological and political tasks "*have come to the fore*"

What is the result? Mere nonsense—as if the task of broadening and deepening the work has *also* come to the fore in its turn! As if there *could* be such a historical "turn," when *this* task is not on the order of the day!

Now, in what way is it possible to overcome deviations by *broadening* and *deepening* Social Democratic work? Any broadening and deepening of our work inevitably gives rise to the question of how it should be broadened and deepened, if liquidationism and otzovism are not accidents, but currents generated by specific social conditions, then they can penetrate into any methods for the broadening and deepening of the work. It is possible to broaden and deepen the work in the spirit of liquidationism—this is being done for instance by *Nasha Zarya*<sup>1</sup> and *Vozrozhdeniye*<sup>2</sup>, it is also possible to do it in the spirit of otzovism. On the other hand, the overcoming of deviations, "overcoming" in the real sense of the word, inevitably diverts certain forces, time and energy from the immediate task of broadening and deepening proper Social

<sup>1</sup> *Our Dawn*—Ed. Eng. ed.

<sup>2</sup> *Regeneration*—Ed. Eng. ed.

Democratic work The same Yonov, for instance, writes on the same page of his article

The plenum is over Its participants have departed The Central Committee in organising its work has to overcome incredible difficulties among which not the least is the behaviour of the so called ' (only 'so called,' Comrade Yonov, not real, genuine ones?) liquidators whose existence Comrade Marlov so persistently denied"

Here you have material—little, but characteristic material—which illustrates how empty Trotsky's and Yonov's phrases are. The overcoming of the liquidationist activities of Mikhail, Yury and Co diverted the time and energy of the Central Committee from the task of broadening and deepening genuinely Social Democratic work Were it not for the conduct of Mikhail, Yury and Co, were it not for the liquidationism among those whom we mistakenly continue to regard as our comrades, the broadening and deepening of Social Democratic work would have proceeded more successfully, for then internal strife would not have diverted the forces of the Party Consequently, if we take the broadening and deepening of Social Democratic work to mean the immediate furthering of agitation, propaganda and economic struggle, etc., in a genuinely Social Democratic spirit, then the overcoming of Social Democrats' deviations from Social Democracy is, in regard to this work, a minus, a subtraction, so to speak, from the "positive activity," and therefore the phrase about overcoming deviations by means of broadening, etc., is meaningless

In reality this phrase expresses a vague desire, a pious, innocent wish that there should be less internal strife among the Social Democrats! This phrase reflects nothing but this pious wish, it is a sigh of the so called conciliators Oh, if there were only less struggle against liquidationism and otzovism!

The political importance of such "sighing" is nil, less than nil If there are people in the Party who profit by "persistently denying" the existence of liquidators (and otzovists), they will take advantage of the "sigh" of the "conciliators" to cover up the evil That is precisely what *Golos Sotsial Demokrata* does Hence the defenders of such well meaning and hollow phrases in the resolution are only so called "conciliators" In reality, they are the

abetters of the liquidators and otzovists, in reality, they do not deepen Social Democratic work, they actually strengthen deviations from it, they strengthen the evil by temporarily concealing it and thereby rendering the cure more difficult

In order to illustrate to Comrade Yonov the significance of this evil, I shall remind him of a certain passage in his article in *Discussionny Listok*, No. 1 \* Comrade Yonov very aptly compared liquidationism and otzovism to a *benign ulcer* which "in the process of swelling draws to itself all the noxious elements from the entire organism, thus contributing to recovery "

That's just it The process of swelling, which draws out of the organism the "noxious elements," leads to recovery And that which hampers the purification of the organism from such elements is harmful to it Let Comrade Yonov ponder over this useful idea of Comrade Yonov <sup>1</sup>

## 6 The Group of Independent Legalists \*\*

Now let us proceed to clarify the events following the plenum To this question Trotsky and Yonov give a uniform and simple answer The Vienna resolution reads "Neither in the external conditions of political life, nor in the internal relations of our Party after the plenum, did any real change occur that might hinder the work of building up the Party " Factional relapse, the heritage of factional relations not yet lived down—and nothing more

Yonov supplies the same explanations "personified "

"The plenum is over Its participants have departed The leaders of the old factions found themselves at liberty and emancipated themselves from all outside influences and pressure Moreover, they received considerable reinforcements: for some of them—in the person of Comrade Plekhanov who of late has been ardently advocating that the Party be declared in a state of war, for others—in the person of sixteen 'old Party members, well known to the editorial board of *Golos Sotsial Demokrata* " (See No 19 20, "Open Letter" \*\*\*) "Under these conditions, how could one refrain from throwing oneself into the fray? And so they resumed the old 'business' of mutual extermination " (*Echoes of the Bund*, No 4, p. 22 )

<sup>1</sup> Sections 3, 4 and 5 (see *Collected Works*, Russian ed., Vol XIV, pp 308 22) of this article are omitted here owing to lack of space They contain concrete proofs and instances in support of the fundamental ideas of the article as set out in sections 1 and 2 —Ed

The factionalists received "reinforcements" and another fight ensued—that is all True, the "reinforcements" for the Bolsheviks came in the person of a Party Menshevik,<sup>1</sup> Plekhanov, he "arrived" to "reinforce" the war on the liquidators, but that is immaterial to Yonov Yonov apparently does not like Plekhanov's polemics against Potresov and Comrade Y (who proposed "to dissolve everything"), etc Of course, he has the right to censure these polemics But how can you characterise it as "declaring the *Party* in a state of war"? War upon the *liquidators* means declaring the *Party* in a state of war—let us remember Comrade Yonov's "philosophy"

The reinforcements for the Mensheviks abroad came in the persons of the Russian Mensheviks But this circumstance does not make Comrade Yonov think in the least

The practical conclusion to be drawn from the "estimation of the present situation" given by Trotsky and Yonov is obvious Nothing extraordinary occurred Simply a factional wrangle Install new neutralisers and the trick is done Everything is explained from the standpoint of narrow circle diplomacy All the practical prescriptions are nothing but narrow circle diplomacy There are the people who "rushed into battle" and there are those who desire to "reconcile" Now strike out the reference to "foundation" from one passage, add the name of So and so to be included in the "institution" in another passage, "give in" to the legalists in regard to the methods of convening the conference in another passage It is the old but ever new story of the narrow circle spirit prevailing abroad

Our view of what took place after the plenum is different

Having succeeded in getting the resolutions adopted unanimously, and having eliminated *all* the "squabbling" accusations, the plenum forced the liquidators to the wall It is no longer possible to hide behind squabbles, it is no longer possible to refer to obduracy and "mechanical suppression" (or the other version "special defensive measures," "martial law," "state of siege," etc) It is

<sup>1</sup> *I.e.*, a Menshevik who supported the maintenance of the underground Party—*Ed. Eng ed*

now possible to leave the Party only on the grounds of liquidationism (just as the *Vperyod* ists can abandon it only on the grounds of otzovism and their anti Marxian philosophy)

Forced to the wall, the liquidators have had to show their true colours. Their Russian centre—it matters not whether it is a formal or an informal, a semi legal (Mikhail and Co.) or entirely legal centre (Potresov and Co.)—*refused* to respond to the call to return to the Party. The Russian legalist liquidators have finally broken with the Party and have united in a group of *Independent Socialists* (independent of socialism and dependent on liberalism, of course). The answer of Mikhail and Co., on the one hand, and the writings of *Nasha Zarya* and *Vozrozhdeniye*, on the other, mark precisely the consolidation of the anti Party circles of "Social Democrats" (to be more exact—quasi Social Democrats) into the group of *Independent Socialists*. Therefore the "conciliatory" efforts of Trotsky and Yonov are *now* ridiculous and miserable. These efforts can only be explained by their complete failure to understand what is taking place. They are harmless now, for there is no one behind them save the narrow circle diplomats abroad, and nothing but ignorance and lack of intelligence in some out of the way places.

The conciliators à la Trotsky and Yonov mistook the special conditions which allowed conciliationist diplomacy to blossom forth at the plenum for the general conditions of present day Party life. They made a mistake in having conceived the diplomacy—which played its part at the plenum *owing* to the presence of conditions that had generated a *deep* striving for conciliation (*i.e.*, for Party unity) in both of the principal factions—as an aim in itself, as a lasting instrument in the game between "*given persons, groups and institutions*."

Certainly there was scope for diplomacy at the plenum, for it was necessary to secure the Party unity of Party Bolsheviks and Party Mensheviks, and this was impossible without concessions, without compromise. In determining the measure of such concessions the "honest brokers" inevitably came to the front—inevitably, because for the Party Mensheviks and Party Bolsheviks the question of the measure of the concessions was a secondary one, so long

as the fundamental base of the principles of such unity as a whole remained intact. The "conciliators" *a la* Trotsky and Yonov—having pushed their way to the front of the plenum, and having obtained the opportunity to play their part as "neutralisers" and "judges" in the matter of eliminating squabbles, in satisfying "claims" against the Bolshevik centre—imagined that as long as the "given persons, groups and institutions" existed they could always play that part. An amusing delusion. Brokers are needed when it is necessary to determine the measure of concessions for obtaining unanimity. The measure of concessions must be determined when there is an obvious common basis of principles for unity. The question as to who was to join this amalgamation after all the concessions had been made remained open at that time, for in principle the provisional assumption that all the Social Democrats would want to enter the Party, that all the Mensheviks would want loyally to carry out the anti liquidationist resolutions, and that all the *Vperyod*ists would want to do the same in regard to the anti otzovist resolution, was inevitable.

Now, however, brokers are not required, there is no place for them, because the question of the measure of the concessions to be made does not arise. And the question of the measure of the concessions to be made does not arise because there is no question of making any concessions whatever. All the concessions (and even excessive ones) were made at the plenum. Now it is exclusively a question as to what, in principle, our position must be in the struggle against liquidationism, not against liquidationism in general, but against a definite group of liquidator independents, the group of Mikhail and Co, the group of Potresov and Co. Should Trotsky and Yonov take it into their heads to "reconcile" the Party with the given persons, groups and institutions, then we and all Party Bolsheviks and all Party Mensheviks would regard them simply as traitors to the Party, and nothing more.

The conciliator diplomats were "strong" at the plenum exclusively because and in so far as both the Party Bolsheviks and the Party Mensheviks wanted peace and subordinated the question of the conditions of peace to the question of the anti liquidationist and the anti otzovist tactics of the Party I, for instance, considered

the concessions excessive and fought over the extent of these concessions (this is hinted at by *Golos* in No 19 20 and is openly stated by Yonov) But I was then and would now be prepared to reconcile myself even to excessive concessions, provided the line of the Party was not thereby undermined, provided these concessions did not lead to the negation of that line, provided these concessions served as a bridge for turning people from liquidationism and otzovism to the Party But now that Mikhail and Co and Potresov and Co have united and have taken action against the Party and against the plenum, I refuse to engage in any negotiations about any concessions, since it is now the duty of the Party to break with these independents, to fight them resolutely as people who have fully and finally turned liquidators And I can speak with confidence not only for myself but for *all* the Party Bolsheviks The Party Mensheviks, through Plekhanov and others, have expressed themselves clearly enough in the same spirit, and since these are the conditions prevailing in the Party, the "conciliator" diplomats *a la* Trotsky and Yonov will either have to abandon their diplomacy or leave the Party and join the independents

In order to convince oneself that the legalists have definitely formed themselves into a group of Independent Socialists, one has only to review the events after the plenum, to appraise them in essence, and not appraise them merely from the standpoint of the petty history of "conflicts," to which Yonov unnecessarily confines himself

1) Mikhail, Roman and Yury declare that the (plenum) resolutions as well as the very existence of the Central Committee are harmful More than two months have elapsed since this fact was published and it has not been refuted It is obvious that it is true<sup>1</sup>

2) Sixteen Russian Mensheviks, including at least two of the three mentioned above, and a number of the most prominent

<sup>1</sup> Number 21 of *Golos Sotsial Demokrata* has just appeared On page 16 Martov and Dan confirm the correctness of this fact, when they speak of the "refusal of three comrades" (??) "to join the Central Committee" As is their wont, with wild abuse of "Tyzko Lenin," they cover up the fact that the group of Mikhail and Co has finally turned into a group of independents.



Menshevik writers (Cherevanin, Koltsov, etc.), publish in *Golos*, with the approval of the editors, a purely liquidationist manifesto,<sup>1</sup> justifying the Mensheviks withdrawing from the Party

3) The Menshevik legally published magazine, *Nasha Zarya*, contains a programme article by Mr Potresov in which it is bluntly stated that "a party in the form of a complete and organised hierarchy of institutions does not exist" (No 2, page 61), that it is impossible to wind up "what in reality no longer exists as an organised body" (*Ibid*) Among the contributors to this journal are Cherevanin, Koltsov, Martynov, Avgustovsky, Maslov, Martov—the same L. Martov who is capable of occupying a place in the "organised hierarchy of institutions" of the illegal Party which has a centre similar to that of an "organised body," and at the same time of belonging to the legal group, which with the gracious permission of Stolypin declares this illegal Party to be non-existent

4) In the popular Menshevik magazine *Vozrozhdeniye* (No 5, April 12 [March 30], 1910), run by the very same staff, an unsigned, i.e., editorial, article praises the above mentioned article by Mr Potresov in *Nasha Zarya* and adds, after quoting the same passage quoted by me above

"There is nothing to wind up and—we on our part" (i.e., the editors of *Vozrozhdeniye*) "would add—the dream of re-establishing this hierarchy in its old underground form is simply a harmful reactionary utopia, which indicates the loss of political intuition by the representatives of a party which at one time was the most realistic of all" (P 51)

Anyone who regards all these facts as accidental apparently does not want to see the truth. Anyone who intends to explain these facts as being the result of "a relapse into factionalism" is lulling himself with a phrase. What have factionalism and the factional struggle to do with it, since the group of Mikhail and Co and the group of Potresov and Co have been standing aside from it for a long time. No, for one who does not purposely want to shut his eyes no doubts are possible here. The plenum removed all obstacles (real or imaginary) to the return of the Party legalists to the Party, it removed all obstacles in the way of building up

<sup>1</sup> See note to page 48 \*\*\* - Ed Eng id

an illegal Party, taking into account the new conditions and new forms of utilising the legal possibilities. Four Menshevik members of the Central Committee and two editors of *Golos* have admitted that *all* obstacles in the way of joint Party work have been removed. The group of Russian legalists *has given its answer to the plenum*. This answer is a *negative* one—we do not want to engage in the restoration and strengthening of the illegal Party, for that is a reactionary utopia.

This answer is a fact of the greatest political importance in the history of the Social Democratic movement. The group of *Independent Socialists* (independent of socialism) has finally consolidated itself and has finally broken with the Social Democratic Party. To what extent this group has crystallised itself, whether it consists of one organisation or of a number of separate circles very loosely connected—this we do not know as yet, nor is it important. What matters is that the tendency to form groups independent of the Party—a tendency which has long been prevalent among the Mensheviks—has now brought about a new political formation. And henceforth all Russian Social Democrats who do not want to deceive themselves must reckon with the fact that this group of Independents exists.

In order that the significance of this fact may become clear, let us recall first of all the "Independent Socialists" in France who, in that most progressive bourgeois state, which more than any other state has been purged of all that is old, carried this political trend to its logical conclusion. Millerand, Viviani and Briand belonged to the Socialist Party, but repeatedly acted independently of its decisions, in spite of them, and Millerand's entry into a bourgeois cabinet, ostensibly to save the republic and protect the interests of socialism, brought about his rupture with the Party. The bourgeois rewarded the traitors to socialism with ministerial portfolios. The three French renegades continue to call themselves and their group Independent Socialists, they continue to justify their behaviour on the grounds of protecting the interests of the labour movement and social reform.

Bourgeois society cannot, of course, reward our independents quite as rapidly; they start under conditions immeasurably more

backward and they must be satisfied with praises and assistance from the liberal bourgeoisie (which has been supporting the Mensheviks' tendencies towards "independence" for a long time past) But the basic tendency is the same in both cases being independent of the Socialist Party is justified on the grounds of protecting the interests of the labour movement, "the struggle for legality" (the slogan in *Dan's* formulation, taken up very zealously by the renegade *Vozrozhdeniye*, No 5, page 7) is proclaimed the slogan of the working class, in reality the bourgeois intellectuals group themselves together (parliamentarians in France, literary men in our country) and act in combination with the liberals, subordination to the Party is rejected, the Party is declared to be insufficiently "realistic" both by Millerand and Co and by *Vozrozhdeniye* and *Golos*, they characterise the Party as a "dictatorship of closed, underground circles" (*Golos*), and declare that it reduces itself to a narrow, revolutionary association which is harmful to broad progress (Millerand and Co)

Furthermore, in order to make clear the position of our independents, take the history of the formation of our Russian "Narodni Socialist Party" This history will help to clarify the position for those who fail to see the kinship between our independents and Millerand and Co owing to the great difference in the external conditions of their "work" It is common knowledge that our Narodni Socialists represent the legalist and moderate wing of petty bourgeois democracy, and I believe none of the Marxists have any doubts about this At the congress of the Socialist Revolutionaries at the end of 1905, the Narodni Socialists came out as the liquidators of the programme, tactics and organisation of the revolutionary party of the petty bourgeois democrats, they acted in the closest alliance with the Socialist Revolutionaries in the newspapers of the days of freedom in the autumn of 1905 and in the spring of 1906 They legalised themselves and seceded, forming an independent party in the autumn of 1906, a fact which did not prevent them, during the elections to the Second Duma and in the Second Duma itself, from merging from time to time with the Socialist Revolutionaries

‘People’—Ed Eng ed

In the autumn of 1906, I happened to write in *Proletary* about the Narodni Socialists, and I characterised them as "Socialist Revolutionary Mensheviks." Three and a half years have elapsed since then, and Potresov and Co. have managed to prove to the Party Mensheviks that I was right. It must be acknowledged, however, that even Messrs. Peshekhonov and Co. acted more honestly in a political sense than did Potresov and his group. After a series of political acts which were in effect independent of the Socialist Revolutionary Party, they openly declared themselves to be a separate political party that was independent of the Socialist Revolutionaries. Certainly, this "honesty" is conditioned, incidentally, by the correlation of forces. Peshekhonov was of the opinion that the Socialist Revolutionary Party was powerless, and thought that it was he who stood to *lose* by an informal alliance with it, whereas Potresov thinks he stands to *gain* by political Azeism,\* i.e., by formally continuing to be a Social Democrat while in reality acting independently of the Social Democratic Party.

For the present, Messrs. Potresov and Co. deem it most advantageous for themselves to parade under a borrowed name, using the prestige of the Russian Social Democratic Labour Party in a thievish manner, corrupting it from within, acting not only independently of it but really against it. It is quite likely that our group of independents will try to parade in borrowed plumes as long as possible, it is quite likely that if a severe blow is dealt the Party, after some big raid upon the illegal organisation, or when circumstances prove particularly tempting, such as, for example, the possibility of entering the Duma independently of the Party, the independents themselves will throw off their mask, we cannot foresee all the possible episodes in their political chicanery.

But one thing we know well, and that is that the covert activities of the independents are harmful and fatal to the RSDLP, the party of the working class, and that we must expose them at all costs, we must expose the independents and declare that all their connections with the Party are broken off. The plenum took a big step forward in this direction. However strange it may appear at first sight, it was precisely the consent (insincere or unconscious) of Martov and Martynov, precisely the maximum, nay excessive,

concessions that were made to them that helped to pierce the ulcer of liquidationism, the ulcer of "independence" in our Party. No honest Social Democrat, no Party member, whatever faction he may sympathise with, can deny now that the group of Mikhail and Co., the group of Potresov and Co., are *independents*, that in reality they do not recognise the Party, they do not want the Party and they are working against the Party.

The rapidity, or the slowness, with which the process of secession and formation of a separate party by the independents matures depends, of course, on many causes and circumstances, which can not all be estimated. The Narodnik Socialists had a special group before the revolution, and the secession of that group, which was temporarily and loosely affiliated with the Socialist Revolutionaries, was particularly easy. Our independents still have some personal traditions, ties with the Party, which retard the process of rupture, but these traditions are becoming ever weaker, and, besides, the revolution and counter revolution bring forward new people, free of all revolutionary or Party traditions. The surrounding atmosphere of "*Vekh*ist"<sup>1</sup> moods is very rapidly driving the spineless intelligentsia towards "independence." The "old" generation of revolutionaries is leaving the stage. Stolypin is doing his utmost to hunt down the representatives of this generation who in the days of freedom, in the years of revolution, had for the most part disclosed all their pseudonyms and all their secrecy. Prison, exile, penal servitude and emigration constantly increase the number of those withdrawn from the ranks, while the new generation grows slowly. Among the intelligentsia, especially that section of it which has "hitched on" to one or another form of legal activity, there is developing a complete lack of faith in the illegal Party and a disinclination to spend efforts on a task which is particularly difficult and particularly thankless in our times. "Friends in need are friends indeed," and the working class, which is passing through the difficult times of attack by the old and the new counter revolutionary forces, will inevitably witness the defection of very many of its intellectual "friends for an hour," friends in times of

<sup>1</sup> See note to page 137 \*\*—Ed Eng ed

festivity, friends only for the duration of the revolution, friends who were revolutionaries during the revolution, but who are yielding to the general depression and are prepared to proclaim the "struggle for legality" at the first successes of the counter revolution

In a number of European countries, the counter revolutionary forces succeeded in making a clean sweep of the remnants of the revolutionary and socialist organisations of the proletariat, as for instance after 1848. A bourgeois intellectual, who in the days of his youth joined Social Democracy, is inclined, because of his petty bourgeois psychology, to give up the struggle in disgust so it was, so it will be, to defend the old illegal organisation is hopeless, to create a new one is still more hopeless, generally speaking, we have "exaggerated" the forces of the proletariat in the bourgeois revolution, we erroneously ascribed "universal" importance to the role of the proletariat—all of these little ideas of the renegade *Obshchestvennoye Dvizheniye*\* directly and indirectly drive towards the renunciation of the illegal Party. Once on the slippery slope, the independent fails to observe that he is slipping down lower and lower, he does not realise that he is working hand in glove with Stolypin. Stolypin destroys the illegal Party physically, with the aid of the police, the gallows and penal servitude, the liberals do exactly the same thing directly, by their open propaganda of "*Vekh*" ideas, the independents among the Social Democrats indirectly assist in the destruction of the illegal Party by their shouts about its "atrophy," by their refusal to help it and by their attempts (see letter 16 in *Golos*, No. 19/20) to justify desertion from it. From one step to the other.

Let us not shut our eyes to the fact that the longer the counter revolutionary period lasts the more difficult will the fight for the Party become. That our Party comrades do not underestimate the danger, that they squarely face it is shown, for instance, by the article of Comrade K. in No. 13 of the central organ \*\*. But the resolute and direct recognition of the weakness of the Party, of the disintegration of the organisations and the difficulties of the situation does not make Comrade K. (or any of the Party comrades) waver for one moment on the question of whether the Party is

necessary, whether it is necessary to work for its restoration. The greater the difficulties of our position, the greater the number of enemies (the day before yesterday they were joined by the "Yekhi-ists," yesterday by the Narodni Socialists, today by the independent Social Democrats)—the more closely will all the Social Democrats, irrespective of their shades, rally in defence of the Party. Many Social Democrats, who could split on the question of how the revolutionary masses who trust Social Democracy should be led in the attack, cannot but be strongly welded together by the question of the imperativeness of the fight for the preservation and consolidation of the illegal Social Democratic Labour Party that was formed in the period of 1895-1910.

As regards *Golos* and the *Golos* ites, they have most strikingly confirmed what was said of them in the resolution of the enlarged editorial board of *Proletary* in July of last year. That resolution (see supplement to No. 46 of *Proletary*, page 6) reads:

"In the Menshevik camp of the Party, with the official organ of the faction, *Golos Sotsial Demokrata*, completely captive to the Menshevik liquidators the minority of the faction, having explored the path of liquidationism to the very end, is already raising its voice in protest against this path and is again seeking a Party base for its activities."

The distance to the "end" of the path of liquidationism proved longer than we imagined at the time, but the correctness of the basic idea underlying these words has since been proved by facts. The correctness of the expression "captive to the liquidators," as applied to *Golos Sotsial Demokrata*, has been particularly confirmed. They are precisely the captives of the liquidators, for they dare not either directly defend liquidationism or openly rebel against it. Even at the plenum they unanimously adopted the resolutions not as free men but as captives who for a short while had obtained leave from their "masters," and who returned to slavery on the day after the plenum. Unable to defend liquidationism, they laid great stress on all possible (and all invented!) obstacles, which had nothing to do with questions of principle, but which prevented them from renouncing liquidationism. And when all

<sup>1</sup> See "The Tasks of the Bolsheviks in the Party," in this volume, page 23.—Ed. Eng. ed.

these "obstacles" were removed, when all their irrelevant, personal, organisational, financial and other claims had been satisfied, they "voted" against their will for the renunciation of liquidationism. Poor souls! They did not know at that time that the Manifesto of the Sixteen was already on its way to Paris, that the group of Mikhail and Co, the group of Potresov and Co had stiffened in their defence of liquidationism. And they obediently turned round and followed the Sixteen, Mikhail and Potresov back to liquidationism.

The heinous crime the spineless "conciliators," like Yonov and Trotsky who defend or justify these people, commit is that they are causing their ruin by making them more dependent upon liquidationism. Whereas the decisive action of all the non-factional Social Democrats against Mikhail and Co and against Potresov and Co (surely, neither Trotsky nor Yonov would venture to defend *these* groups!) might have brought some of the *Golos* captives of liquidationism back into the Party—the grimaces and the affectation of the "conciliators," while in no way reconciling the Party with the liquidators, only inspire the *Golos*ites with "senseless hopes."

Incidentally, these grimaces, this affectation of the "conciliators," may, undoubtedly, be due, to a large extent, simply to a failure to understand the situation. It is only owing to lack of understanding that Comrade Yonov can confine himself to the question of the publication or non-publication of Martov's article, it is only owing to lack of understanding that the Vienna followers of Trotsky can reduce the question to "conflicts" on the central organ. Both Martov's article ("On the Right Road" to liquidationism) and the conflicts on the central organ are only particular episodes which cannot be understood unless taken in conjunction with the whole situation. For instance, Martov's article revealed to us, who during the past year have studied all the shades of liquidationism and *Golos*ism, that Martov *has turned* (or was turned). The Martov who signed the "letter" of the Central Committee concerning the conference could not be the Martov who wrote articles such as "On the Right Road." By abstracting Martov's article from the chain of events from the "letter" of the Central Committee that



preceded it from No 19 20 of *Golos* that followed it, from the Manifesto of the Sixteen, from the articles of Dan ('Struggle for Legality'), of Potresov and of *Vozrozhdeniye*, and by abstracting from the same chain of events the "conflicts" on the central organ, Trotsky and Yonov deprive themselves of the possibility of understanding the events that are taking place<sup>1</sup> And, *vice versa*, every thing becomes quite intelligible as soon as we concentrate our attention on *what lies at the root of it all*, namely, the final consolidation of the Russian independents and their final rupture with the "reactionary utopia" of re-establishing and strengthening the illegal Party

### 7 On Party Menshevism and on its Evaluation

The last question which we must consider in order to understand the "unity crisis" in our Party is the question of so called Party Menshevism and the evaluation of its significance

The views held by the non factionalists, i.e., by those who wish to be regarded as outside the factions, Yonov and Trotsky (No 12 of *Pravda*<sup>2</sup> and the Vienna resolution), are very characteristic in this respect Trotsky determinedly and persistently ignores Party Menshevism (this was already pointed out in No 13 of the central organ\*\*), while Yonov betrays the "cherished" idea of his colleague in declaring that the significance of "Comrade Plekhanov's" actions (Yonov refuses to notice any other Party Mensheviks) lies in their "bolstering up" the factional struggle of the Bolsheviks and in advocating that "the Party be declared in a state of war"

That the position of Yonov and Trotsky is wrong should have been obvious to them for the simple reason that it is refuted by facts We see in No 13 of the central organ that in no fewer than seven Aid the Party groups abroad (in Paris Geneva, Berne,

<sup>1</sup> Take another instance "the theory of equal rights" for legal individuals in the illegal Party \* Is it not clear *after* the actions of Mikhail and Co and Potresov and Co that the meaning and significance of this theory is the recognition of the group of independent legalists and the subordination of the Party to them?

<sup>2</sup> The *Pravda* in question was not the Bolshevik paper which did not yet exist at that time It was published by Trotsky in Vienna --Ed

Zurich, Liege, Nice, San Remo), the Plekhanovists, or to be more exact, the Party Mensheviks, rose against *Golos* and demanded the fulfilment of the decisions of the plenum, demanded that *Golos* cease publication and pointed out the liquidationist nature of the ideological position taken up by *Golos* in No. 19-20. The same process is taking place among the Party workers in Russia, though perhaps less conspicuously. It is ridiculous to hush up these facts. To attempt, despite these facts, to represent Plekhanov's struggle against the *Golos*ites as a literary "factional" struggle means—objectively—taking the side of the group of independent legalists against the Party.

The obviously false and untenable position taken up by the said "conciliators" should have opened their eyes to the fact that they are wrong in their point of departure, namely, that the political significance of the unity reached at the plenum lies in the agreement with "given persons, groups and institutions." We must not allow ourselves to be deceived by the outward forms of Party events and their individual peculiarities; it is necessary to appraise the ideological and political significance of what is taking place. Judging by outward appearances the agreement was made with specified *Golos*ites. But the basis, the conditions, of the agreement was the adoption by the *Golos*ites of Plekhanov's position; this is evident from the analysis of the resolution on the state of affairs in the Party as given above.<sup>1</sup> Outwardly it was precisely the *Golos*ites who were the representatives of Menshevism in the Party—for example, if we were to judge by the composition of the central organ. In reality, after the plenum, the central organ began to transform itself into an organ of "collaboration" between the Party Bolsheviks and the Plekhanovists, with the *Golos*ites in full opposition. The result was a zigzag in the development of Party

<sup>1</sup> Of the four Menshevik members of the Central Committee who were present at the plenum, two directed all their efforts to winning the *Golos*ites practically over to Plekhanov's position—by making the greatest concessions to them. This does not mean that these two were firm Party men, that they were proof against a return to the *Golos* camp. It merely means that Menshevism was caught at a moment when it could not as yet renounce the Party.

unity, at first there was something in the nature of an indiscriminate conciliatory mass without a clear definition of the ideological basis for such unity, but later on the logic of political tendencies took the upper hand, the sifting of the independents from the Party was precipitated by the maximum concessions that were made to the *Golos*ites at the plenum

When I heard at the plenum and saw in *Golos* (No 19 20, p 12) the fierce attacks upon the slogan, agreement between the strong factions to fight the liquidators of the Right and of the Left \* (this slogan is placed in quotation marks by *Golos*, which for some reason does not state directly that I defended this slogan both before and at the plenum)—I thought to myself "Abwarten!" "Wait and see" Just wait, gentlemen of the *Golos*, you are reckoning "without your master" The point is not that the plenum offered the opportunity of taking part in the agreement to every one, and not only to the "strong" factions which are strong because of their ideological and political position The point is, will your "masters," i.e., the groups of independent legalists, allow this opportunity to become a reality?

A few months have elapsed, and only the blind can fail to see now that, in reality, it is precisely the "agreement between the strong factions" that constitutes Party unity and drives it forward "despite all obstacles" That is how it should be, that is the only way it can be in view of the real relation of forces in the Party No doubt, in the near future, either all the leading organs of the Party will be formally reconstructed in such a way as to express this agreement, or the life of the Party and the progress of its unity will for a time proceed irrespective of its leading organs

No doubt, at first sight, it may seem strange to call the Party Mensheviks a "strong faction," for at the present moment—at any rate abroad—the *Golos*ites are apparently the stronger However, we Social Democrats judge strength not by the statements of the emigrant groups, not by the way the Menshevik writers group themselves, but by consideration of the question as to which position is objectively correct, and which of them is condemned by the logic of the political situation to subordination to the "independ

ents" From 1898 to 1900, the *Rabocheye Dycloists*<sup>1</sup> were stronger than the *Iskra*ists both abroad and in Russia, yet they did not constitute a "strong faction"

Now that the *Golos*ites have mobilised all their forces against Plekhanov and emptied upon him all their slop pails—including Mr Potesov and the recollections of how Martov was "offended" in 1901 03 (*sic*)!—the impotence of the *Golos*ites becomes particularly obvious Axelrod and Co were hopelessly behind the times politically when they published abroad, in April, a symposium of personal abuse against Plekhanov, when in Russia the *Nasha Zarya* of February and the *Vozrozhdeniye* of March had already shifted the question to a completely different plane, and Plekhanov in No 13 of the central organ\* had already passed from the history of his clashes with the *Golos*ites to the struggle against their present day policy The *Golos*ites, in recalling old "insults" (right up to 1901!), are floundering as helplessly as the *Vperyod*ists who are still appealing to the kind hearted to protect them from the Bolshevik centre

And see how our "offended" ones, who in 1910 are saving at the very thought of a "Lenin Plekhanov" agreement (their terminology!) no less than Maximov did a year ago over the same thing,\*\* are more and more betraying themselves Like Maximov, the *Golos*ites try to make it appear that it is a question of almost a personal agreement "between Lenin and Plekhanov," while the actions of the latter are explained as a "wild caprice" (p 16 of the *Necessary Supplement*), as the "transformation of Saul into Paul," as "fluttering," etc, etc By recalling Plekhanov's "five years of activity" (*ibid*) as a Menshevik, Martov is doing his utmost to compromise him (retrospectively) for this fluttering, without noticing that by doing so he is besmirching himself most of all

In the very same *Necessary Supplement*, the collective editorial board of *Golos* assures us (p 32) that Plekhanov was "great" precisely during the above mentioned five year period (1904 08) Just see what follows from this The Mensheviks proclaim Plekha

<sup>1</sup> *Workers' Cause*—Ed Eng ed

<sup>2</sup> *Spark*—Ed Eng ed

nov to be "great" not because of his activity during the twenty years (1883-1903) he remained true to himself, when he was neither a Menshevik nor a Bolshevik, but the founder of Social Democracy, but because of his activity during the five years when, as the Mensheviks themselves admit, he was "fluttering," i.e., was not following a consistent Menshevik line. It appears that his "greatness" consisted in that he did not sink entirely into the swamp of Menshevism.

But it is precisely the five year history of Menshevism, which Axelrod and Martov recalled to their own disadvantage, that furnishes a number of facts which help to *explain* the split among the Mensheviks by causes other than those petty, personal causes stressed by Martov.

In 1903, Plekhanov co-opts Axelrod and Martov, and declares in *Iskra*, No. 52, in an article entitled "What Should Not Be Done?" that he wants to *manœuvre with the opportunists* and, by these manœuvres, *reform* them. And in this he resorts to the most extreme attacks on the Bolsheviks. At the end of 1904 he tries to save Axelrod who had obviously slipped into liberalism ("The Plan of the Zemstvo Campaign"<sup>1</sup>), but does it in such a manner as to avoid mentioning a single word about such gems as proclaiming demonstrations before the Zemstvo to be "the highest type of demonstration" (in the pamphlet *Letter to the Central Committee*, published for Party members *only*). In the spring of 1905 Plekhanov becomes convinced of the hopelessness of these "manœuvres," leaves the Mensheviks and founds the *Dnevnik*,<sup>2</sup> which advocates reunion with the Bolsheviks. Number 3 of the *Dnevnik* (November 1905) is not Menshevik at all.

Having wasted about a year and a half on manœuvres with the opportunists within the Party (from the end of 1903 to the spring of 1905), Plekhanov, from the beginning of 1906 and during 1907, engages in *manœuvres* with the Cadets. In this he goes to far greater opportunist extremes than the other Mensheviks. But when Plekhanov, who proclaimed the tactics of "*manœuvring*" at the

<sup>1</sup> See Lenin *Selected Works*, Vol. II, "The Zemstvo Campaign and *Iskra's* Plan"—Ed. Eng. ed.

<sup>2</sup> *Diary*—Ed. Eng. ed.

time of the First Duma and after its dispersal (See *Dnevnik*, No 6), proposed an agreement between the revolutionary parties for a struggle for a constituent assembly, *Proletary* (No 2 of September 11 [August 29], 1906, in the article, "Tactical Vacillations") immediately pointed out that this position was not Menshevik at all \*

At the London Congress, in the spring of 1907, Plekhanov (according to Cherevanin's account, already cited by me in the preface to the volume *Twelve Years*) fought the *organisational anarchism* of the Mensheviks. He wanted a "labour congress" as a manœuvre for the development of the Party and not *against* the Party. During the second half of 1907, as we learn from Martov in the *Necessary Supplement*, Plekhanov "had to use a good deal of eloquence" to uphold the need for an illegal (*i.e.*, Party) Menshevik organ in opposition to Axelrod (who apparently preferred legal organs which in fact were non Party) \*\*. In 1908, the conflict over Potresov's article served as an occasion for his rupture with the liquidators <sup>1</sup>

What do these facts prove? They prove that the present split among the Mensheviks is not accidental but inevitable. "Manœuvring" does not exonerate the one who made mistakes in the name of manœuvres, and I withdraw nothing of what I wrote against those mistakes of Plekhanov. However, "manœuvring" *explains* why it is *easy* for some Mensheviks to go over to the independents, while for others it is *difficult* and even impossible. A Social Democrat who by his manœuvres leads the working class to follow the Cadets causes no less damage than he who does it because of his immanent gravitation towards opportunism. But the former will be able, will manage, to stop, while the latter will roll down into the ditch. A Russian proverb says: Make a certain person bow in prayer and he will batter his forehead <sup>2</sup>. Plekhanov might have said: Make the Potresovs and the Dans go to the

<sup>1</sup> See note to page 58 \*—*Ed Eng ed*

<sup>2</sup> The proverb is: Make a fool bow in prayer, and he will batter his forehead, *i.e.* will pray too zealously. Russian Orthodox Christians, when praying, repeatedly touch the ground with their foreheads.—*Ed Eng ed*

Right for purposes of manœuvring, and they will go to the Right on principle

The stand taken by certain Mensheviks justifies their appellation, "Party Mensheviks." They took their stand upon the struggle for the Party—against the independent legalists. In the *Necessary Supplement* Mr Potresov and the editors of *Golos Sotsial Demokrats* vainly try to evade this simple and obvious question.

Engels too fought the S D F<sup>1</sup> (the British Social Democrats)—says Potresov wriggling (Page 24.) This is sophistry, my dear sir. Engels corrected the Party,\* but you do not say how the Party is to be corrected, you do not even say straightforwardly whether an illegal Social Democratic party is necessary now, whether the R S D L P is necessary or not. In front of Stolypin you say *No* (*Nasha Zarya*), but in front of Party members, in the illegal press, you *dare* not say so: you wriggle and twist.

"Lenin Plekhanov recommend a war against the new forms of the labour movement" (p. 3), "*we start from* the position, conditions and requirements of the real labour movement" (p. 32)—we are assured by the editors. Sophistry, my dear sirs. You yourselves have acknowledged that the plenum did *everything* to recognise these new forms, and the Bolsheviks, too, by the struggle they waged *before* the plenum, *proved* it. We do not differ on the question as to whether "new forms are necessary," whether it is necessary to conduct legal work, or to found legal societies, we do not differ on this at all, what we differ on is the question as to whether it is permissible for legalists conducting such work, like the group of Mikhail and Co., like the group of Potresov and Co., to consider themselves Social Democrats, *when in fact they are independent of the party of the Social Democrats*, or whether it is the *duty* of the Social Democratic Party men to recognise the Party, to propagate the need for it, to work in it, to work in its organisation, to set up illegal nuclei everywhere and in all unions for regular communications with the Party, etc. And you understand perfectly well that we differ *now*—after the plenum—on this account *only*.

The *Golos*ites try to represent our efforts to draw closer to the

<sup>1</sup> The Social Democratic Federation—*Ed. Eng. ed.*

Party Mensheviks—to enter into an agreement with them in order to fight for the Party against the independents—as a personal *bloc* between “Lenin and Plekhanov” They violently abuse the author of the article against Potresov, in No 47 48 of *Proletary*, for his tone of a “flattering courtier” who, they allege, is “speculating on an agreement” with Plekhanov \*

I turn to this article and read on page 7

“Of course, all the mistakes committed by Plekhanov during the revolution occurred precisely because he did *not* consistently follow the line of policy which he himself had advocated in the old *Ishra*”

Let the readers judge what looks more like “flattery” and “speculation” this blunt indication of what the Bolsheviks regard as Plekhanov’s mistake, or the proclaiming of Plekhanov’s “greatness” precisely in the period when he was a Menshevik and according to the Mensheviks was “fluttering”

The editors of *Golos Sotsial Demokrata* write

“Plekhanov will be with us” when “the time comes again for *responsible*” (the italics are in *Golos*) “political actions.” (P 32 of the *Necessary Supplement*)

This betrays political ignorance, but is clear enough as regards “speculation” It betrays ignorance, because the present time is just the time which calls for political actions *a hundred times more responsible* for the old leaders than those in time of open struggle when the masses themselves will much more easily find the way It is clear in the sense of “speculation,” because readiness is expressed to recognise Plekhanov as a Menshevik once more, as soon as he starts “manœuvring” again

We are surprised that the *Golos* ites do not realise the significance that outbursts of this kind have in conjunction with Axelrod’s phrase for example: “We did not want to stoop” (before Plekhanov) “to the role of toadying flunkeys” (P 19) You are behaving exactly like the *type of people* mentioned in your concluding words Your attitude towards Plekhanov corresponds precisely to the “formula” of those people “either a smack on the face, or allow me to kiss your hand”

For five years you have been asking for his “hand,” now on thirty two double sized pages you are “smacking his face,” and on the



thirty second page you "express readiness", you are prepared to recognise him as a Menshevik once more and kiss his hand

As regards ourselves, we are entitled to say that at the time of his "fluttering," Plekhanov was never a Bolshevik. We do not and never will consider him a Bolshevik. But we do consider him a *Party* Menshevik as we do any Menshevik capable of rebelling against the group of independent legalists and carrying on the struggle against them to the end. We regard it as the absolute duty of all Bolsheviks in these difficult times, when the task of the day is the struggle for Marxism in theory and for the Party in the practical work of the labour movement, to do everything possible to arrive at a *rapprochement* with such Social Democrats

### 8 Conclusion *The Platform of the Bolsheviks*

The Party conference fixed by the plenum cannot and must not confine itself to the agenda tentatively proposed by the plenum on condition that all Mensheviks adopt the Party stand \*. This did not come off, and it is not fitting for us to play hide and seek with ourselves

The election slogan for this conference, the slogan under which it is to be convened and prepared must be the *consolidation of the Party members* in the struggle against the group of independent legalists. In accordance with this task and in view of the anti Party position of the *Golos* ites, we must resolutely reorganise all the leading institutions of the Party, so that they may not be drawn into the squabbles which every *Golos* ite is preparing and will be preparing for them, but do the *real work of building up the Party*. The *Golos* ites do not want to build up the Party, they secretly want to help the group of independent legalists

Such must be the platform of the Bolsheviks for this conference to build up the Party in accordance with the December (1908) resolutions<sup>1</sup> and in their spirit, to continue the work of the plenum, making the above mentioned corrections of its decisions, corrections which have been dictated by the entire course of events since the plenum, to concentrate all our efforts on a systematic, un-

<sup>1</sup> See note to page 3 \*—*Ed Eng ed.*

deviating, all sided and persistent utilisation of all and every legal possibility in order to gather the forces of the proletariat, to help it group and consolidate itself, to help it train for the struggle and stretch its limbs, and also steadily to restore the illegal nuclei, to learn how to adapt them to new conditions, to restore the illegal purely Party organisations, and, first and foremost, the purely proletarian organisations, which alone are capable of directing all the work in the legal organisations, of imbuing this work with the revolutionary Social Democratic spirit, of carrying on an irreconcilable struggle against the renegades and the independent legalists, and of helping to usher in the time when our Party, our R S D L P, having preserved all the traditions of the revolution and of the great victories of the proletariat in 1905, and having strengthened and enlarged the proletarian army of the Party, will lead it into a new battle, to new victories

June [May] 1910

## THE SOCIAL STRUCTURE OF STATE POWER, THE PROSPECTS AND LIQUIDATIONISM\*

For their importance, the questions indicated in the above heading occupy one of the foremost, if not the foremost place in the system of views of a Marxist who wishes to orientate himself in the realities around him. The period 1908-10 undoubtedly represents something peculiar. The social structure of society and of state power is characterised by changes, and unless these changes are understood, not a single step can be taken in any sphere of social activity. The understanding of these changes determines the prospects, by which we mean, of course, not idle guessing about things nobody knows, but the fundamental trends of economic and political development—those trends, the resultant of which determines the immediate future of the country, those trends which determine the tasks, direction and character of the activity of every intelligent public man. And this last question concerning the tasks, direction and character of our activity is most closely connected with the question of liquidationism.

No wonder then that as far back as 1908, as soon as it became clear, or it began to become clear, that we were confronted with a new, peculiar period in Russian history, the Marxists placed on the order of the day precisely the questions of the social structure of state power, the prospects and liquidationism, they pointed to the inseparable connection between these questions and systematically discussed them. Furthermore, they did not confine themselves to mere discussion, for that would have been "literature writing" in the bad sense of the word—that would have been possible only in a debating circle of intellectuals who are not conscious of their responsibility and are careless in regard to politics. No, they worked out a precise formulation of the results of the discussion that could serve as a guide not only for a member of the given

literary circle, not only for a person in one way or another connected with a definite intellectual category, but for any and every conscious representative of the class which regards Marxism as its doctrine. By the end of 1908, this necessary work was completed.<sup>1</sup>

I have already pointed out in No. 2 of our magazine<sup>2</sup> what the principal results of this work were. I take the liberty of quoting a few lines from this magazine in order to make the further exposition more intelligible.

"The development of the Russian state system during the last three centuries shows that it has been changing its class character in one definite direction. The monarchy of the seventeenth century with the Boyar Duma did not resemble the bureaucratic aristocratic monarchy of the eighteenth century. The monarchy of the first half of the nineteenth century was not the same as the monarchy of 1861-1904. During 1908-10 a new phase became clearly defined which marked *one more step* in the same direction and which may be called a tendency towards bourgeois monarchy. In close connection with this step is the Third Duma and the present day agrarian policy. The new phase, therefore, is not an accident but a peculiar stage in the capitalist evolution of the country. Without solving the old problems, being unable to solve them and consequently *without removing them*, this new phase demands the application of new methods of preparation for the old solution of the old problems." (No. 2, p. 43)

And a few lines further

"Those who deny (or do not understand) that we are confronted with old problems that we are approaching their old solution *in reality* abandon the basis of Marxism *in reality* become captives of the liberals (like Potresov, Leitskev, etc.)" (P. 44)

Whatever attitude one may adopt towards the set of ideas expressed in these propositions, it would hardly be possible to deny the very close connection and interrelation that exist between the separate parts of this estimate of the *given* period. Take, for instance, the *ukase* of November 22 [9], 1906 (the Law of June 27 [14], 1910).<sup>3</sup> It is quite indisputable that it bears a clearly expressed bourgeois character which marks a change of principle in the agrarian policy long pursued by the "upper" strata towards

<sup>1</sup> Lenin refers here to the decisions of the December Conference of 1908, and in particular to the resolution passed by it "On the Present Situation and the Tasks of the Party." See present volume pp. 13-16.—*Ed. Eng. ed.*

<sup>2</sup> See the article "Our Abolishers" *Collected Works*, Russian ed., Vol. XV.—*Ed.*

<sup>3</sup> See note to page 238.—*Ed. Eng. ed.*

the village commune and allotment ownership. But so far not even the most unprincipled weathercocks, like the Cadets, have ventured to assert that this change of principle has already settled the question, has *already* created new foundations of capitalist peasant economy, or has *already* removed the old problems. The connection between the Law of June 27 [14], 1910, and the system of elections to the Third Duma, as well as the social composition of the latter, is obvious, it would have been impossible to carry out this law, to take a series of measures to put it into practice except by establishing an alliance between the central government and the feudal (let us use this not very exact, general European expression) landlords and the upper strata of the commercial industrial bourgeoisie. We are thus faced with a peculiar stage in the *entire* process of capitalist evolution of the country. Does this stage of evolution eliminate the preservation of "power and revenue" (speaking in a sociological sense) in the hands of the landlords of the feudal type? No, it does not. The changes that took place in this, as in all the other spheres, do not remove the *fundamental* traits of the old regime, of the old relation of social forces. Hence the fundamental task of an intelligent public man is clear, he must evaluate these new changes, "make use" of them, grasp them—if we may use that expression—and, at the same time he must not abandon himself helplessly to the stream, he must not throw out the old luggage, he must preserve the essentials not only in theory, in the programme, in the principles of policy, but also in the forms of activity.

How then did Messrs Potresov and Martov, Dan and Axelrod, Levitsky and Martynov, the "ideological leaders" who group themselves round publications of the type of *Vozrozhdeniye*, *Zhizn*,<sup>1</sup> *Dyelo Zhizni*,<sup>2</sup> *Nasha Zarya* etc., react to this definitely formulated answer to the "vexed questions," to this direct and clear exposition of definite views? The point is that they reacted not like politicians, not like "ideological leaders," not like responsible publicists, not like a literary category, but like a circle of intellectuals, like free-

<sup>1</sup> *Life*—Ed. Eng. ed.

<sup>2</sup> *Life's Cause*—Ed. Eng. ed.

lances of free groups of the writing fraternity They tittered condescendingly—as men who know how to appreciate the fashion and the spirit of the times that are accepted in liberal drawing rooms—over this antiquated, out of date, cranky striving for definite answers to vexed questions Why such definiteness, when one can write wherever one pleases, about anything one pleases, whatever one pleases and in any way one pleases? When Messrs the Milyukovs and Struves furnish excellent examples of all the advantages, *conveniences and privileges* that follow from the evasion of direct answers, of precise enunciation of views, of formulated *professions de foi*,<sup>1</sup> etc? When Forgetful Ivans (and especially the Ivans who do not like to recall the precise formulations of the past) are being honoured and respected in the broadest circles of “society”?

Thus, throughout the past three years, we have not observed the slightest attempt on the part of this entire literary fraternity to present *their own* formulated answer to the “vexed questions” There were many metaphors and idle hypotheses, but not a single straight answer The distinguishing, characteristic feature of the fraternity under consideration was their love for *amorphousness*, *i.e.*, the very symptom which, *at the very time* the direct answer was given to the vexed questions, was recognised in the most definite, precise and unequivocal manner to be a constituent part of the concept *liquidationism* To drift amorphously with the stream, to wallow in one’s amorphousness, to “put the lid on” what is the very opposite of the present amorphousness—that is one of the basic features of liquidationism Opportunists always and everywhere passively abandon themselves to the stream, rest content with answers “from case to case,” from Congress (Drunks)<sup>2</sup> to Congress (factory)<sup>3</sup>, they are satisfied to proceed from organising one “society” (albeit the most respectable and useful trade unions, consumers’ societies, cultural societies, temperance societies, etc) to organising another society, etc Liquidationism is the sum total of the tendencies that are peculiar to all opportunism in general and manifest themselves

<sup>1</sup> Profession of faith, enunciation of one’s convictions, in the given instance political.—*Ed*

<sup>2</sup> Ironical reference to the Temperance Congress.—*Ed Eng ed.*

<sup>3</sup> See note to page 22 \*\*.—*Ed Eng ed*

in definite concrete forms during one of the periods of Russian history in one of our social political trends.

History has preserved only two precise opinions of the liquidators on the above "direct answer" (to the vexed questions) The first opinion the adjective "bourgeois" ought to be replaced by the adjective "plutocratic" <sup>1</sup> Such a substitution, however, would be utterly incorrect The epoch of 1861-1904 reveals to us in the most diverse spheres of life the growth of the influence and often the preponderating influence of the plutocracy During the period of 1908-10 we see, not "plutocracy," but the results of the fact that the bourgeoisie, conscious of itself as a class and taking into account the lessons which the preceding three years had taught its class consciousness, is creating an ideology which in principle is hostile to socialism (not to European socialism, not to socialism in general, but to Russian socialism as such) and to democracy Moreover, the bourgeoisie is organised on a national scale, i.e., precisely as a class, a definite section of which is permanently represented (and in a very influential way, too) in the Third Duma Finally, in the agrarian policy of 1908-10 there is also a system which carries out a definite plan of the bourgeois agrarian regime To be sure, this plan does not "work" yet, but this failure is the failure of one of the bourgeois systems, while the plutocracy has undoubtedly been "successful" in the villages, i.e., the village plutocracy is certainly gaining in consequence of the agrarian policy of 1908-10, whereas the bourgeois regime, for which so many sacrifices are made, is still unable to "fit in" In a word, the proposed term "plutocratic" is inept in every respect, so much so that the liquidators themselves apparently prefer to forget about this proposal

Another opinion the above answer is incorrect because it is equal to the advice to "rush to the place where once we met with " bad luck \* This brief but energetic opinion is valuable because it expresses in a striking form the results of all the literary productions of the liquidators from the *Obshchestvennoye Dvizheniye*

<sup>1</sup> See note to page 5 \*—Ed Eng ed

niye<sup>1</sup> of Potresov down to Mr Levitsky in *Nasha Zarya* \* The content of this opinion is a purely negative one, it confines itself to condemning "rushing" without giving any positive indication as to where one should "rush" Swim, they seem to say, as you can, as "everybody" is swimming, but it is not worth while indulging in generalisations as to where it will or should lead

But however much the opportunists would like to avoid being worried by generalisations, to avoid all "unpleasant" talk about giving a direct answer to the "vexed questions"—it proves impossible to avoid it Drive nature out by the door and it will fly back through the window By the irony of history the very same liquidators who like to pose as "progressives," who are alien to "conservatism," and who in 1908 scornfully turned up their noses at the suggestions that there was need for a direct answer, were forced, *almost a year and a half later*, in the summer of 1910, to reckon with these suggestions And they were forced to do so by events in their own camp They had almost completely evaded the direct answer demanded in certain contemptible, out of date, atrophied, useless, pernicious, "hopeless quarters"—when suddenly, a year and a half later, a "trend" arises among the liquidators themselves, which also demands a direct answer and which challengingly gives a direct answer!

As was to be expected, the role of "challenger" was assumed by Y Larin; but this time he was not alone Larin, as is known, is the *enfant terrible* of opportunism He is distinguished by the great fault (from the point of view of the opportunists) that he takes the trends that appear among them seriously, sincerely and thoughtfully, tries to link them up into a consistent whole, to think them out to the end, to obtain direct answers, to draw practical conclusions Those who are familiar with Larin's book on a broad labour party (that book appeared three or four years ago) will certainly remember how he crushed Axelrod's notorious idea of a labour congress in his fervent embrace.

In March 1910, Larin began to publish a series of articles in *Vozrozhdeniye* on this very question of the social structure of state

<sup>1</sup> See note to page 58 \*—Ed Eng ed



power, the prospects and liquidationism. He was joined by Mr Piletsky. Both writers tackled these questions, to which they vainly sought a direct answer in their liquidationist camp, with the zeal of neophytes, and they began to hit out right and left. "No use talking of feudalism in present day Russia, the government has *already* evolved into a bourgeois government."

'Both the 'first' and the 'second' elements," says Larin singling out the notorious third element " 'may sleep in peace; October 1905 is not on the order of the day' (*Vozrozhdeniye*, No 9 10 p 20) 'If the Duma were abolished, it would be restored more rapidly than in post-revolutionary Austria, which abolished the constitution in 1851 only to recognise it again in 1860, after nine years, without any revolution,\*\* simply because of the interests of the most influential section of the ruling classes, which reconstructed its economy on capitalist lines. Later on, after the regime of bourgeois relations is consolidated the struggle of the various sections of the ruling classes among themselves will force them in our country too, as everywhere else, to extend the limits of the suffrage" (*Ibid*, p 26.) "The process of bringing Russia into the capitalist world is being consummated in the political sphere as well. This consummation means that at the present stage a *nation-wide* revolutionary movement like that of 1905 is impossible" (P 27)

Since the power is thus ' (according to Larin's conclusions) "not vested 'almost entirely' in the hands of the feudal landlords: the struggle for power of the capitalists of land and factory' against the feudal lords cannot be transformed into a nation-wide struggle *against the existing government*" (No 11, p 9) ' To base one's tactical line on the expectation of an approaching 'nation-wide revival means condemning oneself to fruitless waiting' (*Ibid*, p 11) It is impossible to sit between two stools. If nothing has changed in the social nature of the government, then the tasks and the forms of activity will necessarily prove to be the old ones, and the only thing to do is to fight the liquidators. But if anyone wants to go further, to build something new in place of the old, as a *continuation* as an elevation of the old that has fallen to pieces and become useless, then let him consistently take into account the conditions of construction" (*Ibid*, p 14)

Well, is not Larin naive? He demands that the opportunists be "consistent," that they should not "sit between two stools!"

The editors of *Vozrozhdeniye* were perplexed. In No 9 10 they announced that they disagreed with Larin and wrote that while he revealed "freshness of thought," "Y Larin's articles failed to convince us." In No 11, apparently on behalf of the editors, V Mirov wrote in opposition to Larin. Mirov admitted that Larin and Piletsky represented "a definite *trend* which theoretically has

not been studied to any extent yet, but which speaks in very clear language" (the greatest fault from the standpoint of the opportunists!) Mr Mirov wrote

'Larin has incidentally and unexpectedly' (just like that! This restless Larin with his "very clear language" is always causing annoyance to his friends!) "also touched another question in connection with liquidationism. It seems to us that there is no close connection between the forms of building up the Party and the nature of the Russian government, and we reserve to ourselves the right to deal separately with this matter" (Issue of July 20 [7], 1910, p. 22)

It was L. Martov in *Zhizn*, No. 1, of September 12 [August 30], 1910, who "dealt separately" with the matter on behalf of that "we". He declared that "he could only join" (p. 4) V. Mirov and the editors against Larin. Thus the last word in this entire discussion among the liquidators has been uttered by L. Martov.

As usual, Martov tackles the matter very smartly and very "dexterously". He begins by saying that "a careful search was made for the bourgeoisie in power, or for the ruling bourgeoisie, immediately after the *coup d'état* of June 16 [3]". "The June 3 regime is the regime of the domination of the Russian commercial industrial bourgeoisie. This conception was accepted equally by the above mentioned group of Menshevik writers (Larin, Piletsky) and by their antipodes, the orthodox Bolsheviks, who in 1908" wrote "about the birth of a bourgeois monarchy in Russia."

Well, is this not a gem of "dexterity"? Larin reproaches Martov with sitting between two stools and bluntly admits, without subterfuges and stratagems, that it is necessary to fight the liquidators if the answer to the vexed questions given by the "orthodox" is not to be redrafted.

But Martov "dexterously" turns somersaults in mid air and attempts to persuade the readers (who in August 1910 had no opportunity whatever of hearing the other side) that "this conception" "was accepted equally" both by Larin and by the "orthodox"!!!

This dexterity smacks of Burenin and Menshikov\* for it is impossible to imagine a more shameless deviation from the truth.

Among other things, Martov writes in the same article "In literary discussions people usually forget who really 'started it'."

True, that happens in discussions *among literary men* in which there is no question of working out a precise, properly formulated answer to vexed questions. But the case before us is not a discussion among literary men and *not only a literary "discussion,"* a fact that is well, thoroughly and directly known to L. Martov who deliberately misleads the readers of *Zhizn*. Martov knows very well what the formulated reply given and supported by the "orthodox" was. Martov knows very well that it is precisely this reply that Larin is fighting, calling it "ossified routine," "building castles in the air," etc. Martov knows very well that *he himself* and all his adherents and colleagues rejected the formulated reply given by the "orthodox." Martov knows perfectly well "who really started it," who began (and finished) the framing of the precise answer, and who confined himself to sniggering and expressing dissent, without giving *any* answer at all.

It is impossible to imagine a more disgusting, a more dishonest trick than the one played by L. Martov! Larin by his straightforwardness and outspokenness painfully hurt the diplomats of liquidationism when he admitted (though only after a year and a half) that it was quite impossible to dispense with a definite answer. Truth is bitter. And L. Martov tries to deceive the reader by making it appear that Larin accepts a "scheme that is identical" with that of the orthodox—although in reality the two schemes are *opposed to each other*. Larin's scheme *implies* the justification of liquidationism, that of the "orthodox" *implies* the condemnation of liquidationism.

In order to cover up his trick, Martov picks out from the "scheme" *one* little word and distorts its connection with the context (a method worked out to perfection by Burenin and Menshikov). Martov asserts that the "orthodox" wrote about the "birth of a bourgeois monarchy in Russia"—and since Larin writes that there can be no talk of feudalism in Russia, that the government is already bourgeois—"ergo" the schemes of Larin and of the "orthodox" are "*identical*"!! The trick is done, and the reader who believes Martov is fooled.

In reality, however, the "scheme," or, to be more precise, the answer of the orthodox is to the effect that the old power in

Russia is "*taking another step along the path of transformation into a bourgeois monarchy*", and precisely such a path of capitalist development as would "*preserve to the landowners of precisely the feudal type their power and their income,*" and that as a result of this state of affairs "*the basic factors of economic and political life which called forth*" the first crisis in the beginning of the twentieth century <sup>1</sup> "*continue to operate*"

Larin says The government is *already* bourgeois, therefore only the partisans of "ossified routine" speak of the "preservation of power" by the feudal lords, therefore the "basic factors" of the former upsurge do *not* continue to operate, therefore it is necessary to build something new "in place of 'the old that has become useless' "

The "orthodox" say The government is *taking another step along the path* of transformation into a bourgeois (not government in general, but) monarchy, while the real power remains and is preserved in the hands of the feudal lords, so that the "basic factors" of former tendencies, of the former type of evolution "*continue to operate,*" and therefore those who talk of "the old that has become useless" are liquidators who *in reality* have become captives to the liberals

The contrast between the two schemes, between the two answers is obvious We have before us two different *consistent* answers, which lead to different conclusions

Martov is juggling *à la* Burenin, alleging that *both* answers "*speak of*" the "birth of a bourgeois monarchy" One might with equal right refer to the fact that both answers recognise the continuing capitalist development of Russia! *On the basis* of the common recognition (by all Marxists and by all those who wish to be Marxists) of capitalist development, *a dispute is proceeding* as to the degree, forms and conditions of that development And Martov confuses the issue in order to represent what is beyond dispute as the point at issue It is on the basis of the *common* recognition (by all Marxists and by all those who wish to be Marxists) of the development of the old power *along the path*

<sup>1</sup> *I.e.*, the Revolution of 1905-07 — *Ed*

of transformation into a bourgeois monarchy that the dispute is proceeding as to the degree, forms, conditions and course of this transformation, and Martov confuses the issue (do the old factors continue to operate? Is it admissible to renounce the old forms? etc.) in order to represent what is beyond dispute as the point at issue!

That the government of Russia in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries has been generally evolving "along the path of transformation into a bourgeois monarchy" is not denied by Larin, just as hitherto it has never been denied by any sane man wishing to be a Marxist. The proposal to substitute the word "plutocratic" for the adjective "bourgeois" incorrectly appraises the *degree* of this transformation. But it does not dare dispute *in principle* the fact that the actual "path," the path of real evolution, lies *precisely* in this transformation. Let him try to assert that the monarchy of 1861-1904 (i.e., undoubtedly a less capitalistic monarchy than the present one), when compared with the period of serfdom of Nicholas I, does *not* represent *one* of the steps "along the path of transformation into a bourgeois monarchy"!

Martov, far from trying to assert this, on the contrary, "joins" V. Mirov, who, in refutation of Larin, refers precisely to the bourgeois character of the Witte reforms\* and of the reforms of the 'sixties!

Now let the reader judge of the "dexterity" of Mirov and Martov. At first, in opposition to Larin, they repeat the arguments which *a year and a half ago* were used by the "orthodox" against the closest friends, adherents and colleagues of Martov and Mirov—and then they assure the reader that the "schemes" of Larin and of the "orthodox" are identical.

This is not only an example of "literature writing" *versus* politics (for politics demands definite and direct answers, whereas literary men often confine themselves to beating about the bush), it is more than that—it is an example of the degradation of literature to the level of Bureninism.

\* \* \*

After quoting the above words of Larin that "if nothing has changed," etc., "then the only thing to do is to fight the liquidators," Martov replies to him

"Hitherto we thought that our tasks were determined by the social structure of the society in which we act and that the forms of our activity were determined, in the first place, by these tasks and, in the second place, by *political conditions*. The 'social nature of the government' has, therefore, no *direct*" (the italics are Martov's) "bearing on the determination of our tasks and forms of activity"

This is not an answer, but an empty, evasive phrase Martov again attempts to confuse the issue, to shift the dispute to irrelevant ground. The question is not whether the social nature of the government is *directly* or *indirectly* connected with the tasks and forms of activity. Even if this connection is an *indirect* one it will in no way alter things once the close and indissoluble connection is recognised. And Martov does not venture to say a word against the recognition of this close and indissoluble connection. His reference to "political conditions" is nothing but dust thrown in the eyes of the reader. To draw a contrast between "the social nature of the government" and the "political conditions" is as senseless as if I were to draw a contrast between galoshes manufactured by human hands, and rubbers. Rubbers are galoshes. And there are no such things as galoshes that have not been made by human hands. The nature of the government is exactly what constitutes "political conditions." And the nature of the government is nothing but social.

The sum total of all this is that Martov "beat about the bush" and evaded a direct answer to Larin. He evaded an answer because he had no answer to give. Larin is quite right in stating that views on the "social nature of the government" (to be more precise—its economic nature) are closely and inseparably connected with views on the "tasks and forms of activity." Both Larin and the "orthodox" appreciate and apply this connection. Martov (and his tribe) displays no such consistency in his views. That is why Martov is compelled to wriggle and make shift with "rubbers."

Listen further.

"The idea of the gradual, so to say, organic growth' of the working class into that legal country<sup>1</sup> which has obtained the rudiments of a constitutional regime gleamed more or less clearly in the minds of these Mensheviks" (Martov refers to Kogan as an example, *Obrazovaniye*, 1907) "a gradual extension of the third-of-June privileges of the bourgeoisie" (not "plutocracy" eh?) 'to the broad circles of democracy. If such were really the fundamental principle of contemporary liquidationism' in quotation marks or of contemporary legalism,' we would in that case be confronted with the actual liquidation of our traditions, with a real legalism elevated to a principle, with a rupture in principle with all our past. With such liquidationism we should have to wage a serious struggle. Are we really destined to witness reformists creeping into the regime of a renovated Tolmachevism?"\*

Then comes a footnote by Martov "Of course" (!!) "I do not suspect Larin of reformist tendencies"

This long quotation was necessary in order graphically to demonstrate Martov's "method" to the reader. He admits that reformism "gleamed more or less clearly" in the mind of Kogan (a Menshevik who systematically collaborates in serious "works" with Martov). He admits that if reformism were really the fundamental principle of liquidationism, it would be a "rupture with the past." He hurls a ringing, noisy, stinging phrase at the "reformists" who are "creeping into," etc. And he winds up with—what do you think?—with an assurance that he, *of course*, does "not suspect" Larin of reformist "tendencies"!

This is exactly what Eduard Bernstein, Jean Jaurès or Ramsay MacDonald say. They all "admit" that in the minds of certain "extremists" there "gleams" something that is bad, reformism, liberalism. They all admit that if liberalism were the "fundamental principle" of *their* policy, that would be a "rupture with the past." They all hurl ringing, noisy, stinging phrases at the "liberals who are cringing," etc. And they all wind up with an assur-

<sup>1</sup> Perhaps not all the readers will understand this Gallicism which to my mind is an extreme misfit. "Legal country" is a literal translation of the French *pays légal* which implies those classes or groups, strata of the population, which are represented in parliament and which, unlike the masses of the people, enjoy constitutional privileges. Incidentally, this is characteristic for an appraisal of Martov's vacillations. He does not want to admit that Russia in 1908-10 took "another step along the path of transformation into a bourgeois monarchy." But he does admit that the "bourgeoisie" (and not the plutocracy) on June 3, 1907, "obtained the rudiments of a constitutional regime." Who can make head or tail of this?

ances that they do "not suspect" the Latins—I beg pardon—they do "not suspect" their more candid, more "Right" comrades, adherents, friends, colleagues and collaborators, of liberal bourgeois tendencies

The crux of the matter is that, in the articles quoted, Larin gave an exposition of the "system" of views of the most undoubted, most genuine reformism! To deny this means denying the obvious, robbing the concept reformism of all meaning. And if you "refute" Larin, "condemn" reformism as "a principle," hurl ringing phrases at those who are "creeping into," and at the same time positively assert that you do "not suspect" Larin of reformism—surely you thereby utterly expose yourselves! Thereby you fully prove that your reference to your hostility "on principle" to "reformism as a principle" is nothing but the vow a peddler utters when he says "Believe me, upon my oath, it costs me more"

Believe me, upon my oath I condemn reformism as a principle, *but* I do not "suspect" Larin of reformism (those *suspicious* or *orthodox* people are really disgusting!), and I am at one with Larin in his liquidationist practice

Such is the "expanded formula" of present day Russian opportunism

Here is an example of the application of this formula by Martov *himself*, whom naive people (or those unable to understand the deep nature of the *new* re-grouping) still regard as an "undoubted" non liquidator

"The tactics which are to be observed in the activities of the so-called 'liquidators,'" writes Martov on pp 9 10, "are the 'tactics' which put the open labour movement in the centre, strive to extend it in every possible direction, and seek *within*" (the italics are Martov's) "this open labour movement, and there only (note and there only!) 'the elements for the revival of the Party'"

Thus speaks L. Martov. And this is nothing but reformism *creeping into* the regime of a renovated Tolmachevism. The italics "creeping into" I have borrowed from Martov himself, for it is important to note that in the words just quoted Martov *in fact* preaches precisely "creeping into." No matter how much such preachings are accompanied by oaths and imprecations against



"reformism as a principle," the *matter* is not altered in the least. In reality, having said "and there only," and "in the centre" Martov thereby pursues precisely a reformist policy (in the specific situation of Russia in 1908-10), and as to the vows, promises, assurances, oaths—let political babes believe them.

"The dispute between Marx and Willich-Schapper in the beginning of the fifties of the last century turned precisely' (11) round the question of the importance of secret societies and the possibility of leading the political struggle *from within them*. The Blanquists" (in France in the 'sixties) "prepared' for these events" (the downfall of Bonapartism) "by setting up secret societies and bottling up individual workers in them, but the French section of the Marxists went into the labour organisations, founded them and 'fought for legality' by every means."

Both the instances mentioned are taken from quite a different opera. The dispute between Marx and Willich in the 'fifties, between the Blanquists and the Marxists in the 'sixties,\* *did not turn round the question* of whether it was necessary to seek the "elements for the revival of the Party" "only" within "peaceful, tolerated" (Martov, *Zhuzn*, No 1, p 10) organisations. Martov knows this perfectly well and tries in vain to mislead the readers. Neither of these disputes were conducted over the "revival" of the workers' party, for at that time it was impossible to dispute about the revival of something that had not hitherto existed. Both of these disputes turned round the question of whether a workers' party—a party based on the *labour* movement, a *class* party—was necessary at all. It was precisely this that was denied by Willich and by the Blanquists of the 'sixties—a fact but too well known to Martov who in vain tries to *obscure* matters *now* in dispute by general talk about what is now indisputable. The view that "only" in peaceful and tolerated organisations should one seek elements for the revival or for the birth of the Party was never shared by Marx, either in the 'fifties or in the 'sixties, *even at the end of the 'seventies*, during an immeasurably higher phase of development of capitalism and bourgeois monarchy, Marx and Engels declared *ruthless* war on the German opportunists\*\* who had wiped out the recent past of the German Party, deplored "extremes," talked of "more civilised" forms of the movement (in the language of the present day Russian liquidators it is called "Europeanisation")

and advocated the idea that "only" in "peaceful and tolerated" organisations should one "seek the elements for the revival," etc

"To sum up " writes Martov, 'quite sufficient evidence for the theoretical substantiation and political justification of what the 'Mensheviks' who remain true to Marxism are now doing is contained in the fact that the present regime is an inherently contradictory combination of absolutism and constitutionalism, and that the Russian working class has sufficiently matured to follow the example of the workers of the progressive countries of the 'West' in striking at this regime through the Achilles heel of its contradictions"

Martov's words ("quite sufficient") are *quite sufficient* to enable us also to sum up Martov regards as "quite sufficient" that which is recognised by both the Cadets and a section of the Octobrists In January 1911 it was none other than *Rech* that formulated the question in the way Martov proposed to formulate it in August 1910 A contradictory combination of constitutionalism and anti constitutionalism, two camps—for the constitution and against it \* What is quite sufficient for *Rech* is "quite sufficient" for Martov There is not a *grain* of Marxism in this Marxism has evaporated from this completely and liberalism has been put in its place The fact that we have a "contradictory combination" is *not by any means* "sufficient" for a Marxist Marxism only begins with the beginning of the consciousness, the comprehension that this truth is not sufficient, that it contains a spoonful of truth and a barrel of untruth, that it obscures the depth of the contradictions, that it embellishes the reality and rejects the only possible means of finding a way out of the situation

"The contradictory combination" of the old regime and constitutionalism exists not only in present day Russia, but also in present day Germany and even in present day England (the House of Lords, the Crown's independence of the people's representatives in matters of foreign policy, etc ) What, then, is the position taken up *in reality* (i.e., irrespective of good wishes and pious speeches) by the politician who declares that it is "quite sufficient" for a Russian to recognise what is true as regards Germany as well as England? Such a politician *in reality* assumes the position of a *liberal*, of a Cadet Even a more or less consistent bourgeois

democrat in our country cannot, and does not, assume such a position Martov's *last word*, his concluding *formula* which sums up the entire discussion among the liquidators, is a remarkably precise, a strikingly clear and exhaustively complete expression of *liberal* views smuggled in under a pseudo Marxian flag

When the liberals—not only the Cadets, but also a section of the Octobrists—say It is *quite sufficient* for the theoretical substantiation and political justification of our activity to recognise the inherently contradictory combination of the old regime and constitutionalism, the liberals remain quite true to themselves In these words they give a really precise, liberal formula, the formula of the liberal policy of 1908 10 (if not 1906 10) A Marxist, on the other hand, reveals his Marxism only when and to the extent that he explains the *inadequacy and falsity* of this formula, which eliminates those specific features which radically and in principle distinguish the Russian “contradictions” from those of the English and German The liberal says “It is quite sufficient to admit that in our country a great many things are in contradiction to constitutionalism” The Marxist replies “Such an admission is altogether inadequate It is necessary to understand that there is no elementary, fundamental, cardinal, essential, necessary base for ‘constitutionalism’ *at all* The basic error of liberalism consists precisely in that it declares that there is such a base, whereas it does not exist, and this error explains the impotence of liberalism and is explained by the impotence of bourgeois magnanimity”

Translating this political antinomy into the language of economics, we may formulate it as follows The liberal assumes that the path of economic (capitalist) development is already mapped out, defined, completed, that it is now only a matter of removing obstacles and contradictions from *that* path The Marxist believes that this given path of capitalist development has not, up to now, provided a way out of the impasse, *despite* such undoubted bourgeois progress of economic evolution as is marked by November 22 [9], 1906 (or June 27 [14], 1910), as the Third Duma, etc., and he believes that there is *another* path which is also a part of capitalist development, a path that can lead us on to the high road,

a path which must be pointed out, which must be explained, prepared, insisted upon, pursued, in spite of all the vacillation, lack of faith and pusillanimity of liberalism

Martov argues with Larin as if he himself were much more to the "Left" than Larin. And many naive people allow themselves to be deceived and say. Certainly, Potresov, Levitsky and Larin are liquidators, certainly, they are of the extreme Right, something like our Roinaix, but Martov—Martov is certainly no liquidator! In reality, however, Martov's flamboyant phrases against Larin, against the "creeping" reformists, are only a blind, for in his *conclusion*, in his last word, in his *resume*, Martov *actually* supports Larin. Martov is not more "Left" than Larin, he is only more diplomatic, more unprincipled than Larin, he conceals himself more cleverly in the gaudy rags of pseudo Marxian phrases. Martov's conclusion "It is quite sufficient" to recognise the contradictory combination, furnishes just that *confirmation* of liquidationism (and liberalism) which Larin requires. But Larin wants to justify this conclusion, to prove it, to think it out to the end, to make it a matter of principle. And Martov says to Larin, as Vollmar, Auer and the other "old birds" of opportunism used to say to the young opportunist Eduard Bernstein: "Dear Larin—that is to say dear Eddy—you are an ass! Such things are done, but not talked about!" "Dear Larin, for you and me, liquidationist practice should be 'quite sufficient,' the liberal recognition of the contradiction between the old regime and constitutionalism is 'quite sufficient', but, for God's sake, don't go any further, don't 'deepen' the question, don't seek clarity and consistency of principles, don't make any appraisals of the 'present situation,' for that exposes us both. Let us act and not talk."

Martov teaches Larin how to be an opportunist.

"It is impossible to sit between two stools," says Larin to Martov, demanding an explanation and justification of the principles of liquidationism which is so dear to both of them.

"Well, what sort of opportunist are you," replies Martov, "if you don't know how to sit between two stools? What sort of opportunist are you if you insist on a precise, clear and direct justification of the principles of our practice? It is the business of a real

opportunist to sit between two stools, he must advocate the 'tactics process' (remember Martynov and Krichevsky in the period of 1901), he must swim with the stream, cover up his traces, evade all matters of principle. Take Bernstein—he knows now (after the lessons given him by Vollmar, Auer, etc.) how to be a revisionist *without proposing* any amendments to the *orthodox* Erfurt *profession de foi*.<sup>1</sup> And we two must also know how to act as liquidators *without proposing* any amendments to the *orthodox* formal answer (of 1908) given to the 'vexed questions' of the day. In order to be a real opportunist, my dear, dear Larin, one must do the *creeping* in reality, in one's practice, in the way one goes about one's work, but, in words, before the public, in speeches, in the press, one must not only abstain from seeking theories justifying the act of *creeping*, but, on the contrary, one must shout the more loudly against those who creep, one must more assiduously vow and protest that we are not of the creeping kind."

Larin became silent. Probably in the depths of his heart he could not help admitting that Martov was a more clever diplomat, a more subtle opportunist.

\* \* \*

We must examine still another aspect of Martov's concluding formula "it is quite sufficient" to recognise the contradictory nature of the combination of the old regime and constitutionalism. Compare this formula with the *notorious* formula of V. Levitsky "Not hegemony, but a class party" \* (*Nasha Zarya*, No. 7). In this formula Levitsky (the Larin of *Nasha Zarya*) expressed, only in a more direct, open, principled manner, what Potresov confused, glossed over, covered up and draped with pretentious phrases when, under the influence of Plekhanov's ultimatums,<sup>2</sup> he *cleaned up* and revised the article he wrote *against* hegemony.

Martov's formula and that of Levitsky are two sides of the same medal. The object of the next article will be to explain this circumstance for the benefit of Martov who pretends not to under-

<sup>1</sup> This refers to the Erfurt Programme of the German Social Democratic Party (adopted at the congress in Erfurt in 1891). —Ed

<sup>2</sup> See note to page 58. —Ed Eng. ed

stand the connection between the idea of hegemony and the question of liquidationism

P S The present article had already been sent to press when we received *Dyelo Zhizni*, No 2, containing the conclusion of Y Larin's article "Right Turn and About Turn!" Larin explains reformism, of which L Martov "of course does not suspect" him, as clearly in the new liquidationist magazine as he explained it previously For the present, we shall confine ourselves to quoting the *substance* of the reformist programme

"A state of perplexity and uncertainty, when people simply do not know what to expect of the coming day, what tasks to set themselves—that is what results from indefinitely waiting moods, vague hopes of either a repetition of the revolution or of 'we shall see later on' The immediate task is not to indulge in fruitless waiting by the sea in expectation of fair weather but to permeate broad circles with the leading idea that, in the new historical period of Russian life that has set in, the working class must organise itself not 'for revolution,' not 'in expectation of a revolution' but simply for the determined and systematic *defence* of its special interests in all spheres of life, for the *gathering* and training of its forces for this many-sided and complex activity for the *training* and accumulation in this way of socialist consciousness in general, for acquiring the *ability* to find one's bearings—to stand up for oneself—particularly in the complicated relations of the social classes of Russia during the coming constitutional renovation of the country after the economically inevitable self exhaustion of feudal reaction " (P 18)

This tirade very precisely expresses the entire spirit and meaning of Larin's "programme" and of *all* the liquidationist writings in *Nasha Zarya*, *Vozrozhdeniye*, *Dyelo Zhizni* and others including L Martov's "quite sufficient" which we have examined above This tirade is the purest and most complete reformism We cannot dwell on it now, we cannot examine it here in such detail as it deserves We shall, therefore, confine ourselves to a brief remark The Left Cadets, the non party socialists, the petty bourgeois democrats (like the "Narodni Socialists") and the reformists of the type that profess to be Marxists, preach the following programme to the workers gather your forces, train yourselves, learn, defend your interests *simply* in order to stand up for yourselves during the coming constitutional renovation Such a programme "untails, narrows and emasculates the political tasks of the working class in the period 1908-11 in the same manner as the "Economists" emascu

lated these tasks in the period 1896-1901. The old Economists, deluding themselves and others, liked to refer to Belgium (the predominance of reformism among the Belgians was recently brought to light by the excellent works of de Man and de Brouckère, we shall revert to these works another time), the Neo Economists, *i.e.*, the liquidators, like to refer to the peaceful way in which a constitution was obtained in Austria in 1867.<sup>1</sup> Both the old Economists and our liquidators choose instances, cases, episodes in the history of the labour movement and democracy in Europe, when the workers, for one reason or another, were weak, lacked class consciousness and were dependent on the bourgeoisie—and such instances they advance as a model for Russia. Both the Economists and the liquidators serve as conduits of bourgeois influence among the proletariat.

March 1911

<sup>1</sup> See note to page 77 \*\*—*Ed Eng ed*

## THE NEW FACTION OF CONCILIATORS OR THE VIRTUOUS\*

THE *Information Bulletin* of the Foreign Technical Commission\*\* (No 1, August 24 [11], 1911) and the leaflet *To All Members of the R S D L P*, signed by "A Group of Party Bolsheviks," both of which appeared almost simultaneously in Paris, represent in regard to content an identical attack upon "official Bolshevism," or to use another expression, upon the "Leninist Bolsheviks." These documents are full of wrath, they contain more angry exclamations and declamations than real content. Nevertheless, it is necessary to deal with them, for they touch upon the most important problems of our Party. And it is all the more natural for me to undertake the appraisal of the new faction because, first, it was I who wrote on these very questions in the name of *all* the Bolsheviks *exactly a year and a half ago* (see *Discussionny Listok*, No 2<sup>1</sup>), and, secondly, because I am fully conscious of my responsibility for "official Bolshevism." As regards the expression "Leninist"—it is merely a clumsy attempt at sarcasm, intended to insinuate that the whole matter is merely one of the adherents of a *single* person! As a matter of fact, everybody knows full well that this is not a question of those who share my *personal* views on this or that aspect of Bolshevism.

The authors of the leaflet who sign themselves "Party Bolsheviks" also call themselves "non factional Bolsheviks," remarking that 'here' (in Paris) they are "rather ineptly" called conciliators. In reality, it is just this name, established over fifteen months ago, not only in Paris, not only abroad, but also in Russia that contains the only correct expression of the political essence of the new faction. The reader will convince himself of this from what follows.

\* See article "Notes of a Publicist, II The 'Unity Crisis' in Our Party," in the present volume, pp 37-70.—Ed. Eng. ed.



Conciliationism is the sum total of moods, strivings and views which are *indissolubly* bound up with the very *essence* of the historical task set before the R S D L P during the period of the counter revolution of 1908-11. That is why, during that period, a number of Social Democrats, starting from quite different premises, "fell" into conciliationism. Trotsky expressed conciliationism more consistently than anyone else. He was probably the only one who attempted to give this tendency a theoretical foundation. This is the foundation: factions and factionalism expressed the struggle of the intelligentsia "for influence over the immature proletariat." The proletariat is maturing and factionalism is perishing of itself. It is not the change in the relationships between the classes, not the evolution of the fundamental ideas of the two principal factions that lies at the base of the process of fusion of the factions, the whole question is one of the observance or non observance of agreements concluded between *all* the "intellectual" factions. Wavering more to the side of the Bolsheviks at one moment and to that of the Mensheviks at another—Trotsky has been persistently propagating such an agreement (or compromise) between *all* and sundry factions for a long time.

The opposite view (see Nos. 2 and 3 of *Discussionny Listok*) is that the factions are generated by the relations between the classes in the Russian revolution. The Bolsheviks and the Mensheviks only formulated answers to the questions put to the proletariat by the objective realities of 1905-07. Therefore, only the inner evolution of *these* factions, the "strong" factions—strong because of their deep roots, strong because their ideas correspond to certain aspects of objective reality—only the inner evolution of precisely these factions is capable of securing a *real* fusion of the factions, *i.e.*, the creation of a genuinely and completely united party of proletarian Marxian socialism in Russia. Hence the practical conclusion: the *rapprochement* in practical work between these two strong factions alone—and only in so far as they are purged of the non Social Democratic tendencies of liquidationism and otzovism—really represents a Party policy, a policy that really brings about unity, not in an easy way, not smoothly, and by no means immediately, but in a real way as distinguished from

the endless quack promises of easy, smooth, immediate fusion of "all" factions

These two views were observed even before the plenum, when in my discussions I suggested the slogan "*rapprochement* between the two strong factions, and no whining over the dissolution of the factions" This was given publicity immediately after the plenum by *Golos Sotsial Demokrata* I directly, definitely and systematically explained these two views in *May 1910*, i.e., a year and a half ago, moreover, I did this in the "general Party" arena, *Discussionny Listok* (No 2) If the "conciliators," with whom we have disputed on these subjects since November 1909, have not found time so far to answer that article even *once*, did not even make one attempt to examine this question more or less systematically, to expound their views more or less openly and consistently—it is entirely their own fault They call their factional document, which was published in *Listok* on behalf of a special group, a "public answer" But this public answer of those who remained *speechless* for over a year is *not* an answer to the question that was raised long ago, discussed long ago, and answered long ago in two fundamentally different ways, it is a most hopeless muddle, a most hopeless mixture of two unreconcilable answers There is not a single proposition put forward by the authors of the leaflet which they do not immediately refute There is not a single proposition on which the alleged Bolsheviks (who in reality are *inconsistent* Trotskyists) do not echo Trotsky's mistakes

Indeed, look at the main ideas contained in the leaflet

Who are its authors? They profess to be Bolsheviks who "do not share the organisational views of official Bolshevism" That looks as if it were an "opposition" *only* on the question of organisation, does it not? Read the next sentence "It is precisely the organisational questions, the questions of building up and restoring the Party, that are being advanced to the forefront now, as was the case a year and a half ago" This is altogether untrue, and constitutes the very error in principle which Trotsky made, and which I exposed, a year and a half ago At the plenum, the organisational question could have appeared to be of paramount

importance only because and in so far as the *renunciation* of liquidationism by *all* factions *was taken* to be real, because the *Golos* ites and the *Vperyod* ites, "consoling" the Party, "signed" the resolutions *against* liquidationism and against otzovism Trotsky's error was precisely that he continued to pass off the *apparent* for the real after February 1910, when *Nasha Zarya* finally unfurled the banner of liquidationism, and when the *Vperyod* ites—in their notorious "N School"—unfurled the banner of defence of otzovism At the plenum, the acceptance of the *apparent* for the real *may* have been the result of self delusion But after the plenum, since the spring of 1910, Trotsky has been deceiving the workers in a most unprincipled and shameless manner by assuring them that the obstacles to unity were principally (if not wholly) of an organisational nature This deceit is being continued in 1911 by the Paris conciliators, for to assert now that the organisational questions occupy first place is but a mockery of the truth In reality, it is not the organisational question at all that is in the forefront now, but the question of the entire programme, the entire tactics and the whole character of the Party, or rather a question of *two* parties—the *Social Democratic* Labour Party and the *Stolypin* Labour Party \*\* of Messrs Potresov, Smirnov, Larin, Levitsky and Co The Paris conciliators seem to have been asleep for the year and a half that has elapsed since the plenum, and in the meantime the *entire* struggle against the liquidators shifted, *both* in our camp *and* among the Party Mensheviks, from organisational questions to questions of whether *the Party is to be a Social Democratic*—and not a liberal—labour party To argue now, with the gentlemen of *Nasha Zarya* let us say, about organisational questions, about the relations between the legal and illegal organisations, would mean acting a comedy, for these gentlemen may fully recognise an "illegal" organisation like *Golos*, which is subservient to the liquidators! It has been said long ago that the Cadets are recognising and maintaining an illegal organisation that serves monarchist liberalism The conciliators call themselves Bolsheviks, only to repeat, after a year and a half, Trotsky's errors which were exposed by the Bolsheviks (and it was particularly

stated that this was done in the name of Bolshevism *as a whole*!) Well, is this not abuse of established Party appellations? Are we not obliged, after this, to declare before all that the conciliators are not Bolsheviks at all, that they have nothing in common with Bolshevism, that they are simply inconsistent Trotskyists?

Read a little further "One may disagree with the way official Bolshevism and the majority of the editors of the central organ understood the task of the struggle against liquidationism." Is it really possible seriously to assert that the "task of the struggle against liquidationism" is an organisational task? The conciliators themselves declare that they differ from the Bolsheviks *not only* on organisational questions! On what exactly do they differ? They are silent on this. Their "public answer" continues to remain the answer of speechless or careless? people. For a year and a half they did not attempt *even once* to correct "of ficial Bolshevism" or to expound *their own* conception of the task of the struggle against liquidationism! And this struggle has been carried on by official Bolshevism for exactly three years, since August 1908. In comparing these well known dates, we involuntarily seek for an explanation of this strange "speechlessness" of the conciliators, and this quest involuntarily recalls to our mind Trotsky and Yonov, who asserted that they *too* were opposed to the liquidators, but that they understood the task of struggling against them *differently*. This is ridiculous, comrades—to declare, three years after the struggle has started, that you understand this struggle in a different way! *Such* a difference in understanding is equivalent to not understanding at all.

Let us proceed further. The crux of the present Party crisis undoubtedly reduces itself to the question: either the complete separation of our Party, the RSDLP, from the liquidators (including the *Golos*ites) or the continuation of the policy of compromise with them. There is hardly a single Social Democrat at all familiar with the case, who would deny that this question constitutes the essence of the entire Party situation today. What answer do the conciliators give to this question?

They write in the leaflet "We are told that thereby" (*i.e.*, by

supporting the conference) "we are violating Party rules and are causing a split We do not think so" (*sic*!) "But even if it were so, we would not be afraid of it" (Then follows a statement to the effect that the plenum was disrupted by the Foreign Bureau of the Central Committee,\* that the "Central Committee is the object of a gamble," that the "Party forms have begun to be filled with a factional content," etc.)

This answer can truly be called a "classical" specimen of ideological and political helplessness! Think of it the accusation of causing a split has been made And here a new faction, which claims to be able to show the way to the Party, declares publicly and in print "we do not think so" (*i.e.*, you do not believe that there is and there will be a split?) "but " but "we would not be afraid of it"

One can be quite certain that another example of *such* confusion could not be found in the history of political parties If you "do not think" that there is and will be a split, then explain why! Explain *why* it is possible to work with the liquidators! Say straightforwardly that it is *possible*—and therefore necessary—to work with them

But our conciliators not only do not say this, they say the opposite In the editorial of the *Bulletin*,<sup>1</sup> No 1 (the footnote specifically remarks that this article was opposed by a Bolshevik who was an adherent of the Bolshevik platform, *i.e.*, of the resolution of the Second Paris Group\*\*), we read the following

"It is a fact that joint work with the liquidators in Russia is impossible," while somewhat earlier it is admitted that it is "becoming more and more difficult to draw even the thinnest line of demarcation" between the *Golos* ites and the liquidators

Who can make head or tail of this? On the one hand, a most official statement is made on behalf of the Technical Commission (in which the conciliators and the Poles, who now support them, constitute a majority against us Bolsheviks) that *joint work is impossible* In plain Russian this is called a declaration of a split The term split has no other meaning On the other hand, the same *Bulletin*, No 1, proclaims that the Technical Commission was set

<sup>1</sup> See note to page 92 \*—Ed Eng ed

up "not for the purpose of causing a split, but for the purpose of averting it"—and the same conciliators write that they "do not think so" (that there is and will be a split)

Can one imagine a greater muddle?

If joint work is *impossible*, then the question can be explained to Social-Democrats, it can be justified in the eyes of Social Democrats *either* by an outrageous violation of Party decisions and obligations on the part of a certain group of persons (and then a split with *that* group of persons is inevitable), or by a fundamental difference in principle, a difference which causes the *entire* work of a certain trend to be directed *away* from Social Democracy (and then the split is inevitable with the whole trend) As is known both these cases apply the plenum of 1910 declared it impossible to work with the liquidationist *trend*, while the split with the *Colos group*, which violated all its obligations and finally went over to the liquidators, is now taking place

Anyone who deliberately says: "joint work is impossible," who has given any thought to this declaration and has grasped its fundamental principles, would inevitably concentrate all his attention and efforts on explaining these principles to the broadest masses so that they may be saved as soon and as completely as possible from all idle and harmful attempts to continue *any relations whatsoever* with those with whom it is *impossible* to work But anyone who makes this statement and at the same time adds "we do not think" there will be a split, "but we would not be afraid of it," reveals by his confused and timid language that *he is afraid of himself*, afraid of the step he has taken, afraid of the situation that has been created! The leaflet of the conciliators cannot but produce just such an impression They want to apologise for something, they want to appear to be "kind" in the eyes of someone, they want to give someone a hint . We shall see presently just what significance there is in their hints to *Vperyod* and *Pravda* We must first finish with the question of the way the conciliators interpret the "review of the period that has elapsed since the plenum," the review made by the conference of the members of the Central Committee

It is really necessary to *understand* this review, to understand

why it has become inevitable—otherwise our participation in events will be spontaneous, helpless, casual! Now see how this is *interpreted* by the conciliators! How do they answer the question of why the work and the decisions of the plenum, which were primarily of a unifying nature, resulted in a split between the Foreign Bureau of the Central Committee<sup>1</sup> (liquidators) and the anti liquidators? Our inconsistent Trotskyists have simply copied the answer to this from Trotsky and Yonov, and I am forced to repeat what I said in May of last year<sup>2</sup> against those consistent conciliators.

The answer of the conciliators is it is the fault of factionalism, the factionalism of the Mensheviks, *Vperyod* ists, *Pravda* ists (we enumerate the factional groups in the order in which they appear in the leaflet) and, finally, of the “official representatives of Bolshevism” who “have probably excelled all these groups in their factional efforts.” The authors of the leaflet definitely apply the term *non factional* only to themselves—the Paris conciliators. All are vicious—we are virtuous. The conciliators give no ideological reasons in explanation of the phenomenon in question. They do not point to any organisational or to any other distinguishing features of the groups which could give rise to this phenomenon. Nothing, simply nothing, absolutely no *explanation*, except that they refer to factionalism as a vice and to non factionalism as a virtue. The only difference between the conciliators in Paris and Trotsky is that the former regard Trotsky as a factionalist and themselves as non factional, whereas Trotsky holds the opposite view.

I cannot but confess that this formulation of the question, in which political phenomena are explained *only* by the viciousness of some and the virtue of others, always calls to mind the fine features of a much advertised celebrity at the sight of which one cannot help thinking “Probably some rogue.”

What do you think of the following argument? Our conciliators are non factional, virtuous, we Bolsheviks have excelled all groups in our factional efforts, *i.e.*, we are the most vicious. *Therefore*, the virtuous faction supported the most vicious Bolshevik

<sup>1</sup> See note to page 97 \*—Ed Eng ed

<sup>2</sup> See the article “Notes of a Publicist, II The ‘Unity Crisis’ in Our Party,” in the present volume, pp 37-70—Ed Eng ed

faction in the struggle against the Foreign Bureau of the Central Committee! There is something wrong here, comrades! You are getting yourselves mixed up more and more with every statement you make

You make yourselves ridiculous when you and Trotsky hurl accusations of factionalism at one another, as if playing with a ball, you do not take the trouble to *think* what is a faction? Try to give a definition and we predict that you will entangle yourselves still more, for you yourselves are but a vacillating, unprincipled faction that failed to understand what took place at the plenum and after the plenum

A faction is an organisation within the Party, united, not by its place of work, language or other objective conditions, but by a special platform of views on Party questions. The authors of the leaflet are a faction, because the leaflet constitutes their platform (a very bad one, but there are factions with wrong platforms). They are a faction, for like every other organisation they are bound by internal discipline, their group appoints its representative to the Technical Commission and to the Organisation Committee<sup>1</sup> by a majority of votes, it is their group that draws up and publishes the leaflet programme, *and so on*. Such are the objective facts which condemn the shouts against factionalism as *hypocrisy*. Both Trotsky and the "inconsistent Trotskyists" maintain that they are not a faction because "the only" object of their uniting (into a faction) is to abolish factions and to advocate their fusion, etc. But all such assurances are but self-praise and a cowardly game of hide and seek, for the simple reason that the *fact* of the existence of the faction is unaffected by any (even the most virtuous) *aim* of the faction. Every faction is convinced that its platform and policy are the *best* means of abolishing factions, for no one regards the existence of factions as ideal. The only difference is that factions with clear, consistent platforms *openly* defend *their* platform, while unprincipled factions *hide* behind cheap shouts about their virtue, about their non-factionalism

<sup>1</sup> See note to page 92 \*\*.—Ed Eng ed



What is the reason for the existence of factions in the Russian Social Democratic Labour Party? The reason is that they are the continuation of the split of 1903-05.\* They are the result of the weakness of the local organisations which were *powerless* to prevent the transformation of literary groups, which were the expression of new trends and trendlets, into new "factions," *i.e.*, into organisations in which internal discipline takes first place. What real guarantee is there that factions will be abolished? *Only* the complete healing of the split, which dates from the time of the revolution (and *only* the purging of the two main factions of liquidationism and otzovism will lead to this), the creation of a proletarian organisation strong enough to force the minority to submit to the majority. As long as no such organisation exists, *only* an agreement of all the factions *could* accelerate the process of their disappearance. Hence, both the ideological merit of the plenum and its *conciliationist error* become clear. Its merit lies in its rejection of the ideas of liquidationism and otzovism, its mistake lies in indiscriminately concluding an agreement with persons and groups whose deeds do not correspond to their promises ("they signed the resolution"). The ideological *rapprochement* on the basis of the struggle against liquidationism and otzovism goes ahead—despite all obstacles and difficulties. The conciliationist mistake of the plenum<sup>1</sup> quite inevitably caused the failure of its conciliatory decisions, *i.e.*, the failure of the *alliance* with the *Golos*ites. The rupture between the Bolsheviks (and subsequently the conference of the members of the Central Committee<sup>2</sup>) and the Foreign Bureau of the Central Committee is a *correction* of the conciliationist mistake of the plenum. The *rapprochement* of the factions which are actually *fighting* against liquidationism and otzovism will now proceed *despite* the forms decided on by the plenum, for these forms did not correspond to the content. Conciliationism in general, as well as the conciliationism of the plenum, failed, because the content of the work *separated* the liquidators from the Social Democrats, and *no* forms, no diploma

<sup>1</sup> See *Discussionnyy Ispok* No 2 (article 'Notes of a Publicist, II The 'Unity Crisis' in Our Party,' in the present volume, pp 37-70—*Ed Eng ed*)

<sup>2</sup> See note to page 92 \*\*—*Ed Eng ed*

cy or game of the conciliators *could* overcome this process of separation

From this—and only from this point of view, developed by me in May 1910—*everything* that took place after the plenum becomes intelligible, inevitable, resulting not from the “viciousness” of some and the “virtuousness” of others, but from the objective course of events, which isolates the liquidationist *tendency* and brushes aside all the intermediate groups and minor groups

In order to obscure this undoubted, political fact—the complete *failure* of conciliationism—the conciliators are forced to resort to downright distortion of facts Just listen

“The factional policy of the Bolshevik Leninists was particularly harmful because they had a majority in all the principal Party institutions, thanks to which their factional policy justified other trends in their organisational separatism and armed them against the official Party institutions”

This tirade is nothing but a cowardly and belated “justification” of liquidationism, for it was precisely the representatives of that tendency who always spoke of the “factionalism” of the Bolsheviks This justification is belated because it was the *duty* of every real Party man (in contrast to persons who use the slogan “Party spirit” for self advertisement) to act when this “factionalism” began, and not a year and a half later! The conciliators, the defenders of liquidationism, *could not* act and did not act earlier, because they had *no facts* Now they are taking advantage of this “time of trouble” in order to present the unfounded phrases of the liquidators But the facts are explicit and unambiguous immediately after the plenum, in February 1910, Mr Potresov unfurled the banner of liquidationism. Soon after, in February or March, Messrs Mikhail, Roman and Yury betrayed the Party \* Immediately after that, the *Golos* ites started a campaign for *Golos* (see Plekhanov’s *Dnevnik* the day following the plenum) and resumed the publication of *Golos* Immediately after that, the *Vperyod* ists began to build up *their own* “school”<sup>1</sup> On the other hand, the *first* factional step the Bolsheviks took was to found *Rabochaya Gazeta* \*\* in September 1910, after Trotsky’s rupture with the representatives of the Central Committee \*\*\*

<sup>1</sup> See note to page 95 \*—Ed Eng ed

Why did the conciliators resort to such a distortion of well known facts? In order to give a hint to the liquidators, in order to curry favour with them. On the one hand, "joint work with the liquidators is impossible." On the other hand—they are "justified" by the factionalism of the Bolsheviks!! We ask any Social Democrat not contaminated with the diplomacy of the *émigrés* what political confidence do people deserve who are themselves entangled in such contradictions? All they deserved were the kisses with which *Golos* publicly rewarded them.

By "factionalism" the conciliators mean the *ruthlessness* of our polemics (for which the conciliators have censured us thousands of times at the general meetings in Paris) and the ruthlessness of our *exposure* of the liquidators (the conciliators were *against* the exposure of Mikhail, Yury and Roman). The conciliators have been defending and screening the liquidators all the time and have *never dared* to express their defence openly, either in *Discussionny Listok* or in any printed public appeal. And now they are using their impotence and cowardice to put a spoke in the wheel of the Party, which began emphatically to dissociate itself from the liquidators. The liquidators say there is no liquidationism, it is an "exaggeration" on the part of the Bolsheviks (see the resolution of the Caucasian liquidators and the speeches by Trotsky). The conciliators say it is impossible to work with the liquidators, *but* but the factionalism of the Bolsheviks provides them with a "justification." Is it not clear that this ridiculous contradiction of subjective opinions has one, and only one, real meaning: the cowardly defence of liquidationism, the desire to trip up the Bolsheviks from behind and to lend support to the liquidators?

But this is not all by far. The worst and most malicious distortion of facts is the assertion that we had a "majority" in the "*principal Party institutions*." This crying untruth has only one purpose: to cover up the *political* bankruptcy of conciliationism. For, in reality, the Bolsheviks did *not* have a majority in *any* of the "principal Party institutions" after the plenum. On the contrary, it was the conciliators who had the majority. We challenge anyone to attempt to dispute the following facts. *After* the plenum there

were only three "principal Party institutions" 1) The Bureau of the Central Committee in Russia—composed chiefly of *conciliators*<sup>1</sup>, 2) the Foreign Bureau of the Central Committee—on which, from January to November 1910, the Bolsheviks were represented by a *conciliator*, since the Bundist and the Lett *officially* took up the conciliationist standpoint, the majority eleven months after the plenum was *conciliationist*, 3) the editorial board of the central organ—on which two "Bolshevik factionalists" were opposed by two *Golos* ites, without the Pole\* there was *no* majority

Why did the conciliators have to resort to a deliberate untruth? Precisely to conceal their head under their wing, to cover up the political *bankruptcy* of conciliationism. Conciliationism predominated at the plenum, it had a majority in all the principal practical centres of the Party after the plenum, and within a year and a half it suffered complete bankruptcy. It failed to "reconcile" any one, it did not create anything anywhere, it vacillated helplessly from side to side, and for that it fully deserved the kisses of the *Golos* ites.

It was particularly *in Russia* that the conciliators suffered utter bankruptcy. And the more assiduously and demagogically the Paris conciliators refer to Russia the more important is it to stress this. The *leit-motif* of the conciliators is that Russia is conciliationist in contrast with what we have abroad. Compare these *words* with the *facts*, and you will see that this is just hollow, cheap demagogy.

The facts show that for *more than a year* after the plenum there were *only* conciliators in the Russian Bureau of the Central Committee, they alone made official reports about the plenum, officially negotiated with the legalists, they alone appointed agents and sent them to the various institutions, they alone managed all the funds that were sent unquestioningly by the Foreign Bureau of the Central Committee, they alone negotiated with the "Russian" publicists who seemed promising as regards contributing to the muddle (i.e., as regards conciliationism), etc.

<sup>1</sup> Of course, there are conciliators and conciliators, and surely not all the former members of the Russian Bureau could (and would) accept responsibility for all the pompous stupidities of the Paris conciliators who are merely the echoes of Trotsky.

And the result?

The result is nil. Not a single leaflet, not a single pronouncement, not a single organ of the press, not a single "reconciliation." As against this the Bolshevik "factionalists" have put their *Rabochaya Gazeta* published abroad<sup>1</sup> on its feet after two issues (not to mention what only Mr. Martov talks about openly, thus helping the police). Conciliationism is nil: words, empty wishes (and attempts to trip up Bolshevism on the basis of these "conciliatory" wishes), "official" Bolshevism proved by deeds that it is absolutely preponderant precisely in Russia.

Is this an accident? The result of arrests? But arrests "spared" the liquidators, who *did no work* in the Party, while they mowed down Bolsheviks and conciliators alike.

No, this is not an accident, or the result of luck or success of individuals. It is the result of the bankruptcy of a political tendency which is false in its premises. The very foundation of conciliationism is false—the tendency to base the unity of the party of the proletariat on an alliance of all factions, including the anti-Social Democratic, non-proletarian factions, false are its unprincipled "unity" schemes which lead to nothing, false are its phrases against "factions" (when in fact a new faction is formed)—phrases that are powerless to dissolve anti-Party factions, phrases that weaken the Bolshevik faction which bore nine-tenths of the brunt of the struggle against liquidationism and otzovism.

Trotsky provides us with an abundance of instances of unprincipled "unity" scheming. Recall, for example (I take one of the most recent instances), how he praised the Paris *Rabochaya Zhizn*,\* in the management of which the Paris conciliators and the *Golos*ites had an equal share. What a delight!—wrote Trotsky—"neither Bolshevik, nor Menshevik, but revolutionary Social Democrat." The poor hero of the phrase failed to notice one trifle: only that Social Democrat is revolutionary who understands the *harmfulness* of anti-revolutionary, pseudo-Social Democracy in a given country at a given time, i.e., the harmfulness of liquidationism and otzovism in Russia of 1908-11, only one who *knows how to*

<sup>1</sup> See note to page 102 \*\*—Ed. Eng. ed.

fight against similar non Social Democratic tendencies By kissing *Rabochaya Zhizn* which waged no fight against the non revolutionary Social Democrats in Russia, Trotsky merely revealed the plan of the liquidators, whom he faithfully serves, *viz*, equality on the central organ means the termination of the struggle against the liquidators, the liquidators, in fact, enjoy full freedom to fight the Party, as for the Party—*let it be tied* hand and foot by the “equality” of the *Golos*ites and the Party men in the central organ (and in the Central Committee) The victory of the liquidators would then be fully secured, and only the lackeys of the liquidators could carry out or defend such a plan

Instances of unprincipled “unity” schemes, that promised peace and happiness without a long, stubborn, desperate struggle against the liquidators, were provided at the plenum by Yonov, Innokentiev and other conciliators We saw another such instance in the leaflet of our conciliators who justify liquidationism on the grounds of Bolshevik “factionalism” Yet another instance their speeches about the Bolsheviks “isolating” themselves “*from other tendencies*” (*Vperyod*, *Pravda*) “*which share the platform of an illegal Social Democratic Party*”

The italics in this remarkable tirade are ours As the sun is reflected in a drop of water, so this tirade reflects the utter lack of principle in conciliationism—the base of its political impotence

In the first place, do *Pravda* and *Vperyod* represent Social Democratic tendencies? No, they do not, for *Vperyod* represents a non Social Democratic tendency (otzovism and Machism) and *Pravda* represents a tiny group, which has not given an independent and consistent answer to any important fundamental question of the revolution and counter revolution A tendency is constituted only by such a sum of political ideas as has become well defined in regard to all the most important questions of both the revolution (for we have moved away but little from it and are dependent on it in all respects) and the counter revolution; ideas which, moreover, have proved their right to existence as a tendency by being widely disseminated among broad strata of the working class Both Menshevism and Bolshevism are Social Democratic tendencies, this has been proved by the experience of the revolution, by

the eight years' history of the labour movement. As for grouplets not representing any *tendency*—there were plenty during that period, just as there were plenty before. To confuse a tendency with grouplets means condemning oneself to *intrigue* in Party politics. The appearance of grouplets devoid of principle, their ephemeral existence, their efforts to have "their say," their "relations" with each other as separate powers—are the very basis of the intriguing that is going on abroad, and from this there is not nor can there be any salvation, except by strictly adhering to consistent principles that have been tested by the experience of the long history of the labour movement.

Secondly—and here we at once observe the practical transformation of the conciliators' lack of principle into intriguing—the leaflet of the Parisians utters a downright and deliberate untruth when it declares "Otzovism no longer has open adherents and advocates in our Party." This is an untruth, as everybody knows. This untruth is refuted by documentary evidence in *Vperyod*, No 3 (May 1911), which *openly* states that otzovism is a "completely legitimate tendency within our Party" (P 78). Or will our very wise conciliators assert that such a declaration is *not* a defence of otzovism?

Now that people cannot justify their close association with this or that grouplet on principle they are compelled to resort to a policy of petty lies, petty flattery, nods, winks, *i.e.*, to what in its totality forms the concept *intrigue*. *Vperyod* praises the conciliators, the conciliators praise *Vperyod* and falsely reassure the Party as regards otzovism. And as a result there is bargaining and haggling over positions and petty positions with the *defenders* of otzovism, with the *violators of all* the decisions of the plenum. Secretly they assist the liquidators, secretly they assist the otzovists—such is the destiny of conciliationism, and such is the substance of their impotent and miserable intriguing.

And thirdly—"joint work with the liquidators in Russia is impossible." Even the conciliators had to admit this truth. The question is—do the *Vperyod* and *Pravda* grouplets admit this truth? They not only refuse to admit it—they maintain the very *opposite*, they openly demand "joint work" with the liquidators,

and they openly *engage in such work* (see for example the report of the Second *Vperyod* School) 'The question is—is there even a shadow of principle and of honesty in proclaiming the policy of a *rapprochement* with groups which give *diametrically opposite* answers to *fundamental* questions?—for the question of liquidationism has been recognised by an unambiguous and unanimous resolution of the plenum as one of the fundamental questions. Obviously not, we are confronted here with an ideological chasm, and all attempts to span it with a wordy bridge, with a diplomatic bridge, inevitably, irrespective of the most pious intentions of Ivan Ivanovich and Ivan Nikiforovich,<sup>1</sup> condemn them to intrigues

And until it is shown and proved to us, on the basis of solid facts and of a review of the most important questions, that *Vperyod* and *Pravda* represent *Social Democratic tendencies* (and no one, during the year and a half following the plenum, even tried to prove this, and it cannot be proved) we shall not tire of explaining to the workers the harmfulness of those unprincipled stratagems, of those intriguing subterfuges, to which the *rapprochement* with *Vperyod* and *Pravda* preached by the conciliators leads *Isolation* from these non Social Democratic and unprincipled grouplets which are aiding the liquidators is the *first duty* of the revolutionary Social Democrats. To appeal to the Russian workers connected with *Vperyod* and *Pravda* over the heads of these grouplets, and against them—such is the policy which has been and is being pursued by Bolshevism and which it will pursue to the end despite all obstacles

I have said that after the year and a half during which conciliationism predominated in the Party centres, it has suffered complete political bankruptcy. The usual answer to this is yes, but that is because you factionalists were hampering us (see the letter of the conciliators—not Bolsheviks—Hermann and Arkady in *Pravda*, No. 20\*)

Now the *political* bankruptcy of a tendency or of a grouplet

<sup>1</sup> Two characters of Gogol's tale, *The Story of How Ivan Ivanovich Quarrelled With Ivan Nikiforovich*. These two quarrelled over mere trifles—Ed Eng. ed



lies precisely in the fact that *everything* "hampers" it, *everything* turns against it—because it wrongly estimated this '*everything*,' because it took as its basis empty words, sighs, regrets, whining

Whereas in our case, gentlemen, *everything* and *everybody* came to our assistance—and that is the guarantee of our success. We were assisted by Messrs. Potresovs, Larins, Levitskys, for they *could not* open their mouths without confirming our arguments about liquidationism. We were assisted by Messrs. Martovs and Dans, for they *compelled* everyone to agree with our view that the *Golos*ites and the liquidators are one and the same. We were assisted by Plekhanov *to the very extent* that he exposed the liquidators and pointed out the "loopholes" left open "for the liquidators" in the resolutions of the plenum (*by the conciliators*), ridiculed the "puffy" and "integral" passages in these resolutions (*passed by the conciliators against us*). We were assisted by the Russian conciliators who "invited" Mikhail, Yury and Roman, while indulging in abusive attacks against Lenin (see *Golos*), thereby confirming the fact that the refusal of the liquidators was *not* due to the viciousness of the "factionalists." Dear conciliators, how is it that notwithstanding your virtuousness, you were hampered by everybody, whereas everyone helped us in spite of all our factional viciousness?

It was because the policy of your grouplet hinged only on a phrase, often a very well meaning and well intentioned phrase, but empty none the less. A real approach to unity is created *only* by a *rapprochement* between the *strong* factions, strong in their ideological consistency and influence over the masses, and tested by the experience of the revolution.

Even now, your outbursts against factionalism remain a mere phrase, because *you yourselves are a faction*, one of the worst, least reliable, unprincipled factions. Your high sounding, sweeping pronouncement '(in the *Information Bulletin*)—"not a centime to the factions"—was a mere phrase. Had you meant it seriously, could you have spent "*centimes*" on the publication of the leaflet which is the platform of a new grouplet? Had you meant it seriously, could you have kept quiet at the sight of such *factional* organs as *Rabochaya Gazeta* and *Dnevnik Sotsial Demokrata*?

Could you have abstained from publicly demanding that they be closed down?<sup>1</sup> Had you demanded this, had you seriously stipulated such a condition, you would simply have been ridiculed. However, if, being well aware of this, you confine yourselves to languid sighs, does it not prove over and over again that your conciliationism is hanging in the air?

The disarming of the factions is possible only on the basis of reciprocity—otherwise it is a reactionary slogan, extremely harmful to the cause of the proletariat, a demagogical slogan, for it only *facilitates* the irreconcilable struggle of the conciliators against the Party. Anyone who advances this slogan now, *after* the attempt of the plenum to apply it has failed, *after* the attempt to amalgamate (the factions) was thwarted by the *Golos* and *Vperyod* factions, anyone who does this without daring to repeat the condition of reciprocity, without even trying to state it clearly, to determine the methods of control over its *actual fulfilment*—is simply intoxicating himself with the sound of sweet words.

Bolsheviks, unite—you are the only bulwark of a consistent and decisive struggle against liquidationism and otzovism.

Pursue the policy of *rapprochement* with *anti*-liquidationist Menshevism, a policy tested by practice, confirmed by experience—such is our slogan. It is a policy that does not promise a land flowing with milk and honey, which cannot be attained in the period of collapse and disintegration of “universal peace,” but it is a policy that in the process of work really furthers the *rapprochement* of *tendencies* which represent *all* that is strong, sound and vital in the *proletarian* movement.

The role of the conciliators during the period of counter revolution may be characterised by the following picture. With immense efforts the Bolsheviks are pulling our Party waggon up a steep slope. The liquidator *Golos*ites are trying with all their might to drag it downhill again. In the waggon sits a conciliator, he

<sup>1</sup> In fairness we should state that the Paris conciliators, who have now issued their leaflet, were opposed to the launching of *Rabochaya Gazeta*, they left the first meeting to which they were invited by its editors. We regret that they did not help us (help to expose the futility of conciliationism) by openly denouncing *Rabochaya Gazeta*.

is a picture of tenderness. He has such a sweet, sweet face, like that of Jesus. He looks the very incarnation of virtue. And modestly dropping his eyes and raising his hands he exclaims "I thank thee, Lord, that I am not like one of *these*"—a nod in the direction of the Bolsheviks and Mensheviks—"vicious factionalists who hinder all progress." But the waggon moves slowly forward and in the waggon sits the conciliator. When the Bolshevik factionalists *smashed* the liquidationist Foreign Bureau of the Central Committee, thereby clearing the ground for the construction of a new house, for a *bloc* (or at least a temporary alliance) of *Party* factions, this house was entered by the conciliators who (cursing the factionalist Bolsheviks) sprinkled the new abode with the holy water of sugary speeches about non factionalism!

\* \* \*

What would have become of the historically memorable work of the old *Iskra*, if, instead of waging a consistent, irreconcilable campaign against the principles of Economism and "Struveism," it had agreed to some *bloc*, alliance or "fusion" of *all* groups, small and otherwise, which were as numerous abroad in those days as they are today?

And yet the differences between our epoch and the epoch of the old *Iskra* increase manifold the harmfulness of unprincipled and phrasemongering conciliationism.

The first difference we have risen to a far higher level, in the development of capitalism and of the bourgeoisie, as well as in the clarity of the class struggle in Russia. There is already (for the *first time* in Russia) a certain objective soil for the liberal labour policy of Messrs. Potresov, Levitsky, Laim and Co. The Stolypin liberalism of the "Cadets" and the Stolypin Labour Party are already in the process of formation. All the more harmful in practice are conciliationist phrases and intrigues with the grouplets abroad which support the liquidators.

The second difference the immeasurably higher level of development of the proletariat, of its class consciousness and class solidarity. All the more harmful is the *artificial* support given by the conciliators to the ephemeral grouplets abroad (*Vperyod*,

*Pravda*, etc.), which have not created and are unable to create any tendency in Social Democracy

The third difference during the *Ishia* period there were illegal organisations of the Economists in Russia, which had to be smashed and split up in order to unite the revolutionary Social Democrats against them. Today, there are *no* parallel illegal organisations, today it is only a question of fighting the segregated *legal* groups. And this process of segregation (even the conciliators are forced to admit it) is retarded by them, by their political *game* with the factions abroad which are *unwilling* to work and incapable of working on the lines of such delimitation.

Bolshevism has "got over" the otzovist sickness, the revolutionary phrase, the playing at "Leftism," the swinging from Social Democracy to the Left. The otzovists came out as a faction when it was *no longer* possible to "recall" the Duma Social Democrats.

Bolshevism will also get over the "conciliationist" sickness, the wavering in the direction of liquidationism (for in reality the conciliators were always a plaything in the hands of the liquidators). The conciliators are also hopelessly belated. They came out as a faction after the one and a half years of *domination* of conciliationism after the plenum had exhausted itself and there was no one left to conciliate.

P.S. The present feuilleton was written more than a month ago. It criticises the "theory" of the conciliators. The "practice" of the conciliators, which found expression in the hopeless, absurd, futile and shameful squabbles which pervade the columns of the conciliators' and the Poles' *Bulletin*, No. 2,\* is not worth wasting a single word on.

October 1911

## THE CLIMAX OF THE PARTY CRISIS\*

Two years ago one could find in the Social Democratic press utterances on the "unity crisis" in the Party.<sup>1</sup> The counter revolutionary epoch with its ruin and disintegration caused new regroupings and splits, a new sharpening of the struggle abroad, and not a few of those who lacked faith or whose nerves were weak lost heart in face of the difficult internal condition of the Social Democratic Labour Party. Now, with the formation of the Russian Organisation Committee (R O C), we are obviously approaching, if not the end of the crisis, then at any rate a new and decisive turn for the better in the development of the Party. It will therefore be opportune to attempt a general review of the past period of inner Party evolution and of the prospects for the immediate future.

The revolution left the R S D L P in the form of three separate, autonomous, national, Social Democratic organisations, and two Russian factions proper. The experience of the years 1905, 1906 and 1907, which were unprecedented for their abundance of events, demonstrated that these factions were deeply rooted in the tendencies of development of the proletariat, in the general conditions of its life in this period of bourgeois revolution. The counter revolution once again drove us from the mountain, up which we had climbed so high, down into the valley. The proletariat had to re-group its ranks and gather its forces anew in the midst of Stolypin's gallows and the "Vekhî" jeremiads.

The new situation gave rise to a new grouping of tendencies in the Social Democratic Party. In both the new factions—under the severe pressure of the adverse times—a process of segregation commenced of the least stable Social Democratic elements, of the var-

<sup>1</sup> See the article "Notes of a Publicist, II The 'Unity Crisis' in Our Party," in the present volume, pp. 37-70—*Ed. Eng. ed.*

ious *bourgeois fellow travellers* of the proletariat. Two tendencies—liquidationism and otzovism—expressed this *departure* from Social Democracy most strikingly. And it was these that inevitably gave rise to the tendency of *rapprochement* between the main cores of both the factions which had remained true to Marxism. Such was the state of affairs from which emerged the plenum of January 1910—the source of the pluses and minuses, of the steps forward and wavering backward in the subsequent development of the Social Democratic Party.

To this very day, many have failed to understand properly the undeniable ideological merit of the work performed by the plenum, and the great “conciliationist” mistake it committed. But unless this is understood it is impossible to understand anything at all in the present Party situation. We must therefore once again pause to explain the source of the present crisis.

The following quotation from an article by a conciliator, written just before the plenum and published immediately after it, may help to make this clearer than would long disquisitions or quotations from more direct and more numerous “documents.” One of the leaders of conciliationism which dominated the plenum—Comrade Yonov, a Bundist—wrote the following in an article “Is Party Unity Possible?” published in *Discussionny Listok*, No. 1 (April 1 [March 19], 1910, on page 6 we read the editors’ note “the article was written before the plenum”).

“However harmful otzovism and liquidationism, as such, may be to the Party, their beneficial effect on the factions seems to be beyond doubt. Pathology knows two kinds of ulcers: malignant and benign. A benign ulcer is an ailment useful to the organism. In the process of ulceration, it draws all kinds of noxious elements from the entire organism and thus contributes to its cure. I believe that a similar role was played by liquidationism in regard to Menshevism and by otzovism ultimatumism in regard to Bolshevism.”

Such is the estimate of the case made by a “conciliator” during the plenum,<sup>1</sup> which describes *exactly* the psychology and the ideas of conciliationism that triumphed at the plenum. In the above quo-

<sup>1</sup> This refers to the plenum of the Central Committee in 1910, which is referred to in the same article: “Notes of a Publicist, II. The ‘Unity Crisis’ in Our Party.” See present volume, pp. 37-70 and note to page 37.—*Ld. Eng. ed.*

tation the main idea is correct, it is a thousand times correct, and just because it is correct the Bolsheviks (who even before the plenum had fully developed the struggle against liquidationism and against otzovism) *could not* break with the conciliators at the plenum. They could not, because there was agreement on the main idea, it was only on the question of the form in which this main idea should be applied that there were differences. The form will become subordinated to the content—thought the Bolsheviks, and they proved to be right, though this “adaptation of form to content” cost the Party *two years*, which were almost “wasted,” owing to the mistake committed by the conciliators.

What was the nature of this mistake? It was that the conciliators recognised all and sundry tendencies on their mere promise to purge themselves, instead of recognising only those tendencies which are purging themselves (and only in so far as they do purge themselves) of their “ulcers.” The *Vperyod* ists, the *Golos* ists and Trotsky all “signed” the resolution against otzovism and liquidationism—that is, they promised to “purge themselves”—and that was the end of it! The conciliators “believed” the promise and entangled the Party with non-Party grouplets, “ulcerous” as they themselves admitted. From the point of view of practical politics this was childishness, while from a deeper point of view it was ideologically void, unprincipled and full of intrigue. Indeed, those who were seriously convinced that liquidationism and otzovism ultimatumism were ulcers could not but understand that as the ulcers mature they must *draw* out and drain the noxious elements from the organism, and they would not contribute to the poisoning of the organism by attempts to drive the “ulcerous” poisons inside.

The first year that elapsed after the plenum revealed in practice the ideological hollowness of the conciliators. As a matter of fact, all Party work (purging, the healing of ulcers) during the whole of that year was done by the Bolsheviks and the Plekhanovists. Both *Sotsial Demokrat* and *Rabochaya Gazeta* (after the expulsion of the Central Committee’s representative by Trotsky<sup>1</sup>) prove that

<sup>1</sup> See note to page 102 \*\*\*—Ed Eng ed

fact Some of the generally known, legally issued publications of 1910 also bear out that fact These are not words but facts joint work in the leading bodies of the Party

During that year (1910), the *Golos* ites, the *Vperyod* ists and Trotsky, all in fact, estranged themselves from the Party and moved precisely in the direction of liquidationism and otzovism ultimatumism The "benign ulcers" remained ulcers which behaved malignantly, inasmuch as they did not drain the "noxious elements" from the organism of the Party, but continued to contaminate that organism, keeping it in a diseased condition and rendering it incapable of doing Party work This Party work (in literature, which was accessible to all) was conducted by the Bolsheviks and the Plekhanovists *in spite of* the "conciliatory" resolutions and the collegiums formed by the plenum, and not in conjunction with the *Golos* ites and the *Vperyod* ists, but *against* them (because it was impossible to work in conjunction with the liquidators and otzovists ultimatumists)

And what about the work in Russia? Not a single meeting of the Central Committee was held during the whole year! Why? Because the members of the Central Committee in Russia (conciliators who well deserved the kisses of *Golos Likvidatorov*<sup>1</sup>) kept on "inviting" the liquidators for a year and a year and a quarter but never got them to "accept the invitation" Unfortunately, our good conciliators made no provisions at the plenum for bringing people to the Central Committee "under guard" As a result the Party found itself in the absurd and shameful position, which the Bolsheviks had predicted at the plenum when they fought the trustfulness and *naiveté* of the conciliators, namely work in Russia is at a stand still, the Party is tied up, while a disgusting stream of liberal and anarchistic attacks on the Party pours forth from the pages of *Nasha Zarya* and *Vperyod*! Mikhail, Roman and Yury, on the one side, the otzovists and the "God creators," on the other, are doing their utmost to *ruin* Social Democratic work, while the conciliationist members of the Central Committee are "inviting" the liquidators and are "waiting" for them!

<sup>1</sup> *Voice of the Liquidators*—Ed Eng ed



By their "declaration" of December 18 [5], 1910,\* the Bolsheviks openly and formally declared that they cancelled the agreement with all the other factions. The violation of the "peace" made at the plenum, its violation by *Golos*, *Vperyod* and Trotsky, had become a fully recognised fact.

About half a year was spent (until June 1911) in attempts to convene a plenum abroad, which under the agreement was to be convened within not more than three months. The liquidators (*Golos*ites—Bundists—Schwarz) likewise prevented the convening of the plenum that was to have been held abroad. Thereupon the *bloc* of three groups—the Bolsheviks, the Poles and the conciliators—made a final attempt to save the situation: to call a conference and to form a Russian Organisation Committee. As heretofore, the Bolsheviks were in a minority: from January 1910 to June 1911, the liquidators were predominant (in the Foreign Bureau of the Central Committee the *Golos*ites—a Bundist—Schwarz, in Russia the conciliators who had been continually "inviting" the liquidators), from June 1911 to November 14 [1], 1911 (the period fixed by the trustees), the conciliators, who were joined by the Poles, were predominant.

This is how matters stood: both money and the sending of agents were in the hands of Tyszko and Mark<sup>1</sup> (the leader of the Paris conciliators), the only assurance the Bolsheviks received was consent that they too be sent on work. The differences arising out of the plenum reduced themselves to the last point, which it was impossible to evade: whether one was to work with all one's energy, without "waiting" for anyone, without "inviting" anyone (anyone who wishes and is able to work in a Social Democratic fashion needs no invitations!), or whether one was to continue bargaining and haggling with Trotsky, *Vperyod*, etc. The Bolsheviks chose the first path, a fact which they had already openly and directly declared at the Paris Conference of the Central Committee members. Tyszko and Co. chose (and foisted on both the Technical Commission and the Foreign Organisation Committee) the second path, which, as was shown in detail in the feuilleton of *Sot*

<sup>1</sup> Mark—Zommer Iyubimov.—*Fd*

*sial Demokrat*, No 24,<sup>1</sup> was objectively nothing but empty and miserable intrigue

The result is now clear to all By November 14 [1], the *Russian Organisation Committee* was formed In reality, it was created by the Bolsheviks and by the Party Mensheviks in Russia "The alliance of the two strong factions" (strong in their ideological solidity and in their work of purging "ulcers"), against which the weak minded people at the plenum and after the plenum were so enraged (see *Golos*, *Vperyod*, *Otkliku Bunda*,<sup>2</sup> *Pravda*, etc ), became a fact In such exemplary and outstanding Social Democratic organisations as were the Baku and the Kiev organisations for the Russia of 1910 and 1911, this alliance, to the great joy of the Bolsheviks, was transformed into an almost complete fusion, into a single indissoluble organism of the Party Social Democrats

After a test of two years' experience, the snivelling for the dissolution of "all" factions turned out to be but a miserable phrase of empty headed people who had been fooled by Messrs Potresovs and the otzovists "The alliance of the two strong factions" performed its work, and approached very closely—in the case of the above mentioned exemplary organisations—to a complete fusion into a single party The waverings of the Party Mensheviks abroad can no longer alter this accomplished fact

The two years following the plenum, which to many sceptics or dilettantes in Social Democracy, who do not wish to understand the devilish difficulty of the task, seem to be years of useless, hopeless, senseless squabbles, of disintegration and ruin, were in reality years in which the Social Democratic Parties were led out of the swamp of liquidationist and otzovist waverings on to the high road The year 1910 was a year of joint work of the Bolsheviks with the Party Mensheviks in *all* the leading (both official and unofficial, legal and illegal) bodies of the Party, this was the first step of the "alliance of the two strong factions" towards ideological preparation, the gathering of the forces under a single banner, the anti liquidationist and anti otzovist banner The year 1911 witnessed the

<sup>1</sup> Lenin refers to his article "The New Faction of Conciliators or the Virtuous" See present volume, pp 92 112—*Ed Eng ed*

<sup>2</sup> *Echoes of the Bund*—*Ed Eng ed*

second step—the creation of the Russian Organisation Committee. The fact that a Party Menshevik presided at its first meeting is significant. The second step—the creation of an actually functioning centre in Russia—has now been taken. The locomotive has been raised and placed on the rails.

For the first time after *four* years of ruin and disintegration, a Social Democratic centre has met together in Russia—in spite of the incredible persecution of the police and the unheard of intrigues of the *Golos* ites, *Vperyod* ists, conciliators, Poles and *tutti quanti*. For the first time a leaflet has appeared in Russia addressed to the Party by that centre. For the first time the work of re-establishing the local underground organisations has systematically and thoroughly covered both capitals,<sup>1</sup> the Volga Region, the Urals, the Caucasus, Kiev, Ekaterinoslav, Rostov, Nikolayev (all in about three months, from July to October 1911)—for the Russian Organisation Committee assembled only *after* having visited all these places, its first meeting having taken place *simultaneously* with the restoration of the St Petersburg Party Committee and with a series of workers' meetings arranged by it, with the passing of resolutions by the Moscow city district in favour of the Party, etc.

Of course it would be unpardonable *naivete* to indulge in light hearted optimism, we are still confronted with enormous difficulties, police aggression has increased tenfold since the publication of the first Russian leaflet by the Social Democratic centre, it is possible to foresee long and hard months, new arrests, new interruptions in our work. But the main thing has been accomplished. The banner has been unfurled, the workers' circles all over Russia are being drawn to it, and no counter revolutionary attack can possibly haul it down.

\* \* \*

What was the answer of the conciliators abroad, and of Tyszko and Leder, to this gigantic stride forward in the work in Russia? A last flare up of miserable intrigue. The "process of ulceration," which was so prophetically foretold by Yonov on the eve of the

<sup>1</sup> *I.e.*, St Petersburg and Moscow.—*Ed Eng ed*

plenum, is unpleasant, no doubt But anyone who fails to understand that this unsightly process makes Social Democracy *healthier* should not apply himself to revolutionary work! The Technical Commission and the Foreign Organisation Committee refuse to submit to the Russian Organisation Committee The Bolsheviks, of course, turn their backs upon intrigues abroad with contempt Thereupon vacillation sets in at the beginning of November, a report on the convocation of the Russian Organisation Committee is delivered to the fragments of the Foreign Organisation Committee (two Poles and one conciliator) The report depicts the entire work so comprehensively that the opponents of the Bolsheviks, the conciliators whom *Golos* praised, *are forced* to recognise the Russian Organisation Committee The Foreign Organisation Committee passes a resolution on November 26 [13], 1911 "To be guided by the decisions of the Russian Organisation Committee" Four fifths of the money in possession of the Foreign Organisation Committee is transferred to the Russian Organisation Committee, which indicates that the Poles and conciliators themselves are *not* able to cast a shadow of doubt on the seriousness of the whole undertaking

And, nevertheless, a few days later, both the Technical Commission and the Foreign Organisation Committee again refuse to submit to the Russian Organisation Committee!! What is the meaning of this game?

- a) The editors of the central organ are in possession of a document which will be submitted to the conference and which reveals that Tyszkowski is agitating for non participation in the Russian Organisation Committee and for non participation in the conference

Is it possible to imagine intrigue more vile than this? In the Technical Commission and in the Foreign Organisation Committee they undertook to help convene the conference and to form the Russian Organisation Committee They boasted that they would invite "all," but invited no one (though, being in the majority, they had the right to invite and to put up any conditions) They could find no one to do the work except the Bolsheviks and the Party Mensheviks They suffered utter defeat in the field they themselves had chosen They sank so low as to attempt to "trip up" the very Russian Organisation Committee to which they had voluntarily sur-

rendered, as to a fully authorised centre, four fifths of their funds for convening the conference!

Yes, an ulcer is an unpleasant affair, especially when it is "in the process of ulceration" In No 24 of the central organ<sup>1</sup> it has already been shown why the theoreticians of an alliance of all and sundry groups abroad can do nothing else than carry on intrigues Now the Russian Social Democratic workers will make their choice without any difficulty whether to defend their Russian Organisation Committee and their conference, or to allow Tyszko, Leder and Co to sabotage their conference by intrigues The intriguers have ruined themselves—that is a fact, Tyszko and Leder have already gone into the history of the RSDLP with a convict's badge, but they will never succeed in hindering the conference or in undermining the Russian Organisation Committee

What about the liquidators? For a year and a half, from January 1910 to June 1911, when they had a majority in the Foreign Bureau of the Central Committee and faithful "friends" in the persons of the conciliators in the Russian Bureau of the Central Committee, they did nothing, absolutely nothing, to further the work in Russia! When they were in the majority—work was at a standstill But when the Bolsheviks broke up the liquidationist Foreign Bureau of the Central Committee and proceeded to convene the conference, the liquidators began to stir And it is very interesting to note the form in which that "stir" expressed itself The Bundists who have always very faithfully served the liquidators were recently struck with the desire to take advantage of the present "time of trouble" (among the Letts, for instance, the issue of the struggle between the two tendencies—liquidationist and Party—has not yet been determined), they got hold of a Caucasian somewhere and the whole company went to the city of Z to snatch signatures for the resolutions drafted by Trotsky and Dan in Cafe Bubenbergl (in Berne, August 1911\*) But they failed to find the leading Lettish organisation, they failed to get the signatures and no document with the high sounding heading "Organ

<sup>1</sup> See the article "The New Faction of Conciliators or the Virtuous," in this volume, pp 92-112—*Fd Eng ed*

isation Committee of the Three Strongest Organisations" was got out by them. Such are the facts.<sup>1</sup>

Let the Russian workers learn about the way the Bundists are trying to break up the Russian Organisation Committee in Russia! Just think at a time when the comrades who were making the preparations for the conference were touring the Urals, the Volga Region, St Petersburg, Moscow, Kiev, Ekaterinoslav, Rostov, Tiflis, Baku—the Bundists "got hold of" a "Caucasian" (probably one of those committee men who were in possession of the "seal" of the Regional Caucasian Committee and who, in December 1908, sent Dan and Axelrod as representatives to the conference of the RSDLP) and proceeded to "snatch signatures" from the Letts. Not much more was needed to cause this gang of intriguers, who serve the liquidators and who are absolutely alien to all work in Russia, to come out as the "Organisation Committee" of "three organisations" (including the two "strongest" possessors of the seal!) Or perhaps the Bundist gentlemen and the Caucasian will please inform the Party what Russian organisations they visited, when exactly they made these journeys, where they restored the work, and where they made reports? Do try and tell us, dear fellows!

And the past masters of diplomacy abroad, with the serious mien of experts, pass judgment "one must not isolate oneself," "it is necessary to talk things over with the Bund and with the Regional Caucasian Committee."

Oh, ye comedians!

Let those who are wavering now, who regret the "isolation" of the Bolsheviks, learn and ponder over the significance of the history of the Party during these past two years. Oh, *this* isolation makes us feel better than we have ever felt before, for we have cut off the bunch of intriguing nonentities abroad and have helped to consolidate the ranks of the Russian Social Democratic workers of St.

<sup>1</sup> Apart from the never lose heart Bundists, the Vperyodists too galloped off to snatch resolutions. From that grouplet—by no means otzovist, heaven forbid!—there galloped off a well known otzovist, he "galloped" through Kiev, Moscow, Nizhni Novgorod, "reconciled himself" with the conciliators, and went away without achieving anything anywhere. It is said that the Vperyod group blames the unsatisfactory god devised by Lunacharsky for its failure and that it passed a unanimous resolution to devise a better god.

Petersburg, Moscow, the Urals, the Volga Region, the Caucasus and the South!

Whoever complains about isolation understands absolutely nothing of the great ideological work accomplished by the plenum or of its conciliationist mistake. For a year and a half after the plenum there was an appearance of unity abroad and complete stagnation in the Social Democratic work in Russia. In six months or four months of 1911 the seemingly extreme isolation of the Bolsheviks for the first time gave an impetus to the Social Democratic work in Russia, for the first time restored the Social Democratic centre of Russia.

Those who have not yet understood the ideological rottenness and deadliness of such "ulcers" as liquidationism and otzovism will now understand it from the history of the impotent squabbles and miserable intrigue to which the grouplets of *Golos* and *Vperyod* have sunk, dragging with them, in their fall, all those who attempted to defend them.

To work, comrades, Party Social Democrats! Shake off the last remnants of your contacts with non Social Democratic tendencies and the grouplets that foster them in spite of the decisions of the Party Rally round the Russian Organisation Committee, help it convene a conference and strengthen local work. The RSDLP has gone through a serious illness, the crisis is passing.

Long live the united, illegal, revolutionary Russian Social Democratic Labour Party!

December 1911

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## CONTROVERSIAL QUESTIONS\*

### AN OPEN PARTY AND THE MARXISTS

#### I THE DECISION OF 1908

To many workers the struggle that is now going on between *Pravda*<sup>1</sup> and *Luch* appears unnecessary and not very intelligible. It is natural that the controversial articles in separate issues of the newspaper on separate, sometimes very special questions do not give a complete idea of the objects and content of the struggle. Hence the legitimate dissatisfaction of the workers.

Yet the question of liquidationism, over which the struggle is now being waged, is at the present time one of the most important and most urgent questions of the labour movement. It is impossible to be a class conscious worker unless one studies the question in detail, unless one forms a definite opinion on it. A worker who wishes to decide independently the destinies of *his* party will not waive polemics even if they are not quite intelligible at first sight, but will earnestly seek and find the truth.

How is one to find the truth? How is one to make head or tail of the mutually contradictory opinions and assertions?

Every reasonable person understands that if a violent struggle takes place on any subject whatever, he must, in order to ascertain the truth, not confine himself to the statements made by the disputants, but must examine the *facts* and *documents* for himself, see whether there is any evidence of *witnesses* and whether that evidence is reliable.

This, of course, is not always easy to do. It is much "easier" to believe what you *happen* to hear, what is more "openly" shouted about, and so on. But people who are satisfied with this are called

<sup>1</sup> *I.e.*, the Bolshevik *Pravda*, which commenced publication in St. Petersburg in May 1912.—*Ed. Eng. ed.*



"superficial," light minded people, and no one takes them seriously. It is impossible to get at the truth of any serious question unless one undertakes a certain amount of *independent* work, and whoever is afraid of work deprives himself of the possibility of finding the truth.

Therefore, we appeal only to those workers who are not afraid of this work, who have decided to find out things *independently* and to try to *discover facts, documents, evidence of witnesses*.

The first question that arises is—what is liquidationism? Where did this word come from, what does it mean?

*Luch* says that the liquidation of the Party, i.e., the dissolution, the break up of the Party, the renunciation of the Party, is merely a wicked invention, the "factionalist" Bolsheviks invented this charge against the Mensheviks!

*Pravda* states that the whole Party has been condemning and fighting liquidationism for over four years.

Who is right? How is one to discover the truth?

Obviously, there is only one way of doing it—to seek for facts and documents in the *history* of the Party of the last four years, from 1908 to 1912, when the liquidators *finally seceded* from the Party.<sup>1</sup>

It is precisely these four years, when the present liquidators *were still* in the Party, that represent the most important period for the purpose of *tracing* the origin of the concept, liquidationism.

Hence, the first and basic conclusion— whoever talks of liquidationism, while *avoiding* the facts and documents of the Party during the period 1908-11, is hiding the truth from the workers.

What are these facts and documents of the Party?

First of all the *Party decision* adopted in December 1908.\* If the workers do not wish to be treated like children who are stuffed with fairy tales and fiction, they must ask their advisers, leaders or representatives, whether a *Party decision* was adopted on the question of liquidationism in December 1908 and what that decision was.

<sup>1</sup> See the article "The Present Situation in the Russian Social Democratic Labour Party" and the notes to it in the present volume.—*Ed*

\* This refers to the All Russian Conference of the Russian Social Democratic Labour Party which took place at that time. See the article "On the High Road" in the present volume, pp. 3-12 and note to page 3.—*Ed Eng ed*

That decision contains a *condemnation* of liquidationism and the explanation of what it is

Liquidationism is "the attempts of a certain section of the Party intelligentsia to liquidate" (i.e., to dissolve, destroy, abolish, close down) "the existing organisation of the Party and substitute for it an amorphous association within the limits of legality" (i.e., conformity with the laws, "open" existence) 'at all costs, even if this legality is to be attained at the price of an *open renunciation of the programme, tactics and traditions*' (i.e., the past experience) "of the Party"

Such was the *decision* of the Party on liquidationism, passed more than four years ago

It is obvious from this decision what the essence of liquidationism is and why it is condemned. Its essence is the *renunciation* of the "underground," the abolition of the latter and its *replacement* by an amorphous association within the limits of legality at all costs. Therefore, it is not legal work, not the insistence on its necessity that the Party condemns. The Party condemns—and unreservedly condemns—the *substitution* for the old Party of something amorphous, something "open," which cannot be called a party.

The Party cannot exist unless it defends its existence, unless it unreservedly fights those who want to abolish and destroy it, who do not recognise it, who renounce it. This is obvious.

He who renounces the existing Party in the name of some new one must be told: try, build up a new party, but you cannot remain a member of the old, the present, the existing Party. Such is the meaning of the Party decision that was passed in December 1908, and it is obvious that no other decision could have been adopted on the question of the existence of the Party.

Of course, liquidationism is ideologically connected with *renegacy, with the renunciation of the programme and tactics, with opportunism*. This is exactly what is indicated in the concluding part of the above quoted decision. But liquidationism is not *only* opportunism. The opportunists are leading the Party to a wrong, bourgeois path, the path of a liberal labour policy, but they *do not renounce* the Party itself, they do not dissolve it. Liquidationism is opportunism that goes to the length of renouncing the Party. It is self-evident that the Party cannot exist *if it includes* those who do

not recognise its existence. It is equally understandable that the renunciation of the "underground" under the existing conditions is the renunciation of the old Party.

The question is, what is the attitude of the liquidators towards the decision adopted by the Party in 1908?

This is the crux of the matter, this puts the sincerity and political honesty of the liquidators to the test.

Not one of them, unless he has taken leave of his senses, will deny the fact that such a decision was adopted by the Party and has not been repealed.

And so the liquidators resort to evasions, they either avoid the question and *withhold* from the workers the Party's decision of 1908, or exclaim (often with curses) that this decision was carried by the Bolsheviks.

But cursing only betrays the weakness of the liquidators. *Party decisions* have been carried by the Mensheviks, for example, the decision concerning municipalisation, which was passed in Stockholm in 1906.\* This is common knowledge. Many Bolsheviks do not agree with that decision. But not one of them denies that it is a *Party decision*. In exactly the same way the decision of 1908 concerning liquidationism is a *Party decision*. All subterfuges in regard to this question only signify a desire to mislead the workers.

Whoever wants to recognise the Party, not in words only, will not allow any subterfuges in this connection, and will insist on getting at the truth concerning the *decision of the Party* on the question of liquidationism. This decision has been endorsed since 1909 by *all the Party Mensheviks*, headed by Plekhanov who, in his *Dnevnik* and in a whole series of other Marxian publications, explained on many occasions and quite definitely that he who wants to liquidate the Party cannot be in the Party.

Plekhanov has been and will remain a Menshevik. Therefore the usual allusions of the liquidators to the "Bolshevik" nature of the decisions of the Party in 1908 are doubly wrong.

The more abuse the liquidators hurl at Plekhanov in *Luch* and *Nasha Zarya*, the clearer is the proof that the liquidators are in the wrong and that they are trying to obscure the truth by noise, shout

ing and brawling. Sometimes a novice is stunned by such methods, but the workers will find their bearings for all that, and will soon brush aside the curses.

Is the unity of the workers necessary? It is.

Is the unity of the workers possible without the unity of the workers' organisation? Obviously not.

What prevents the unity of the workers' party? Disputes over liquidationism.

Therefore, the workers must understand what these disputes are about in order that they *themselves* may decide the destiny of their Party and *save it*.

The first step in this direction is to read the *first* decision of the Party on liquidationism. The workers must know this decision thoroughly and study it carefully, brushing aside all attempts to evade the question or to sidetrack it. Having studied this decision, every worker will begin to understand the essence of the question of liquidationism, why this question is so important and so "acute," why this question has been facing the Party during the four years and more of the period of reaction.

In the next article we shall consider another important decision of the Party on liquidationism which was adopted about three and a half years ago, and then pass on to facts and documents which define how the question stands at present.

## II THE DECISION OF 1910

In our first article (*Pravda*, No. 289) we quoted the first and basic document with which those workers who wish to discover the truth in the present disputes must make themselves familiar, namely, the Party decision of December 1908 on the question of liquidationism.

Now we shall quote and examine another, no less important decision of the Party on the same question that was passed three and a half years ago, in January 1910.<sup>1</sup> This decision is especially im-

<sup>1</sup> This refers to the decisions of the plenum of the Central Committee in 1910 in respect of which the second chapter of the article, "Notes of a Publicist," was written. "The 'Unity Crisis' in Our Party." See present volume, pp. 37-70 and note to page 37.—*Ed. Eng. ed.*

portant because it was carried *unanimously* all the Bolsheviks, without exception, all the so called *Vperyod* ists, and finally (this is most important of all) *all* the Mensheviks and the present liquidators without exception, and also all the "national" (i.e., Jewish, Polish and Lettish) Marxists endorsed this decision

We quote here in full the most important passage in this decision

'The historical situation of the Social Democratic movement in the period of the bourgeois counter revolution inevitably gives rise, as a manifestation of the bourgeois influence over the proletariat, on the one hand to the renunciation of the illegal Social Democratic Party, the debasement of its role and importance the attempts to curtail the programme and tactical tasks and slogans of consistent Social Democracy, etc., on the other hand, it gives rise to the renunciation of the Duma work of Social Democracy and of the utilisation of the legal possibilities, the failure to understand the importance of either the inability to adapt consistent Social Democratic tactics to the peculiar historical conditions of the present moment etc

'An integral part of the Social Democratic tactics under such conditions is the overcoming of both deviations by broadening and deepening the Social Democratic work in all spheres of the class struggle of the proletariat and by explaining the danger of such deviations."

This decision clearly shows that three and a half years ago all the Marxists, as represented by all the tendencies without exception, had *unanimously* to recognise two *deviations* from the Marxian tactics Both deviations were recognised as *dangerous* Both deviations were explained as being due, not to accident, not to the evil intention of individual persons but to the "*historical situation*" of the labour movement in the given period

Moreover, this unanimous decision of the Party points to the *class* origin and significance of these deviations For Marxists do not confine themselves merely to bare references to ruin and disintegration That disintegration, lack of faith, despondency, perplexity reign in the minds of many adherents of democracy and socialism is obvious to all It is not enough to admit this It is necessary to understand the *class* origin of the discord and disruption, to understand what *class* interests of the non proletarian environment foster this "confusion" among the friends of the proletariat

And the decision of the Party adopted three and a half years

ago gave an answer to this important question *the deviations* from Marxism are generated by the "bourgeois counter revolution," they are generated by the "*bourgeois influence over the proletariat*"

What are these deviations that threaten to deliver the proletariat to the influence of the bourgeoisie? One of these deviations, which is connected with *Vperyod*ism and which renounced the Duma work of the Social Democrats as well as the utilisation of the legal possibilities, *has disappeared almost completely*. None of the Social Democrats in Russia now preach these erroneous non Marx-ian views. The *Vperyod*ists (including Alexinsky and others) have begun to work in *Pravda* alongside the Party Mensheviks.

The other deviation indicated in the decision of the Party is precisely *liquidationism*. This is obvious from the reference to the "renunciation" of the "underground" and to the "debasement" of its role and importance. Finally, we have a very precise document, published *three years ago* and refuted by no one, a document emanating from *all* the "national" Marxists and from Trotsky (better witnesses than whom the liquidators could not produce), this document states directly that "in essence it would be desirable to call the tendency indicated in the resolution *liquidationism*, *which it is necessary to combat*"<sup>1</sup>

Thus, the fundamental, the most important fact that everyone who wants to understand what the present controversy is about must know, is that three and a half years ago the Party *unanimously* recognised *liquidationism* to be a "dangerous" deviation from Marxism, a deviation which it is necessary to combat, which expresses the "*bourgeois influence over the proletariat*"

The interests of the bourgeoisie, which is biased against democracy and which is, generally speaking, counter revolutionary, demand the *dissolution* of the old party of the proletariat. The bourgeoisie is doing everything to disseminate and support all ideas directed towards the *liquidation* of the party of the working class. The bourgeoisie is striving to sow the seeds of renunciation of the old tasks, in order to "curtail" them, to cut and lop them

<sup>1</sup> See note to page 62 \*—Ed Eng ed

off, to emasculate them, to substitute conciliation or an agreement with the Purishkeviches and Co for the determined destruction of the foundations of their power

Liquidationism is, in fact, the introduction of these bourgeois ideas of renunciation and renegacy among the proletariat

Such is the *class* significance of liquidationism as indicated in the unanimous decision of the Party three and a half years ago. It is in this that the entire Party sees the greatest harmfulness and danger of liquidationism, its pernicious effect on the labour movement, on the consolidation of an independent (in deeds and not in words) party of the working class

Liquidationism is not only the "liquidation" (*i.e.*, the dissolution, the destruction) of the old party of the working class, it also means the destruction of the *class independence* of the proletariat, the corruption of its class consciousness by *bourgeois* ideas

We shall give an illustration of this appraisal of liquidationism in the next article, which will set forth in full the most important arguments of the liquidationist *Luch*. And now let us sum up briefly what we have stated above. The attempts of the *Luch* ists in general, and of Messrs Dan and Potesov in particular, to argue that "liquidationism" is an invention are subterfuges remarkable for their falsity, subterfuges based on the assumption that the readers of *Luch* are completely uninformed. Actually, apart from the Party decision of 1908, there is a *unanimous* Party decision of 1910, which gives a complete appraisal of liquidationism as a bourgeois deviation from the proletarian path, a deviation that is harmful and dangerous to the working class. Only the enemies of the working class can hide or evade this Party appraisal

### III THE ATTITUDE OF THE LIQUIDATORS TO THE DECISIONS OF 1908 AND 1910

In the preceding article (*Pravda*, No 95 [299]), we quoted the exact words of the unanimous Party decision on liquidationism, which define the latter as a manifestation of bourgeois influence over the proletariat

As we have pointed out, this decision was adopted in *January*

1910 Let us now examine the behaviour of those liquidators who brazenly assure us that there is not and never was such a thing as liquidationism

In February 1910, in No 2 of the magazine *Nasha Zarya*, which had just made its appearance, Mr Potresov wrote bluntly that "a party representing a complete and organised hierarchy" (i.e., ladder or system) "of institutions *does not exist*" and that it is impossible to liquidate "*what in reality no longer exists* as an organised body" (See *Nasha Zarya*, 1910, No 2, p 61 )

This was stated a month or even less *after* the unanimous decision of the Party!!

And in March 1910, another liquidationist magazine, namely *Vozrozhdeniye*, having the same set of contributors, Potresov, Dan, Martynov, Yezhov, Martov, Levitsky and Co, stressed and popularly explained Mr Potresov's words

"There is nothing to wind up and—we on our part" (i.e., the editors of *Vozrozhdeniye*) "would add—the dream of re-establishing this hierarchy in its old, underground form is simply a harmful reactionary utopia which indicates the loss of political intuition by the representatives of a party which at one time was the most realistic of all" (*Vozrozhdeniye*, 1910, No 5, p 51 )

No party exists, and the idea of restoring it is a harmful utopia—these are clear and definite words. Here we have a plain and direct renunciation of the Party. The renunciation (and the invitation to the workers to do likewise) came from people who abandoned the underground and "dreamed" of an open party

This exit from the underground was, moreover, quite definitely and openly supported by P B Axelrod in 1912, both in *Nevsky Golos* (1912, No 6) and in *Nasha Zarya* (1912, No 6) \*

"Talking in these circumstances about non factionalism," P B Axelrod wrote, "means behaving like an ostrich—it means deceiving oneself and others. Factional organisation and consolidation constitute the prime duty and the most urgent task of the partisans of Party reform, or to be more exact, of revolution"

Thus P B Axelrod is openly in favour of a *Party revolution*, i.e., the destruction of the old Party and the formation of a new one



In 1913 *Luch*, No 101, in an unsigned editorial stated plainly that "among the workers in some places there is even a revival and strengthening of sympathy for illegal work" and that this is "a regrettable fact" L Sedov, the author of that article, admitted that the article "caused dissatisfaction" even among the partisans of the tactics of *Luch* (*Nasha Zarya* 1913, No 3, p 49) L Sedov's explanations in this connection were such as to cause renewed dissatisfaction, this time it was one of the partisans of *Luch*, namely, An,<sup>1</sup> who in *Luch*, No 181, wrote opposing Sedov An protests against Sedov's assumption that "illegality is an obstacle to the political organisation of our movement to the building up of a workers' Social Democratic Party" An ridicules L Sedov, who leaves one "in the dark" as to whether illegality is desirable or not

The editors of *Luch* published a long postscript to An's article in which they found An "to be in the wrong in his criticism of L Sedov," and declared themselves *in favour of Sedov*

In *Zhivaya Zhizn*, No 8 (August 1 [July 19], 1913), V Zasulich wrote "It is difficult to say whether the organisation" (i.e. the Social Democratic Party) "helped or hampered the work" It is obvious that these words are tantamount to a renunciation of the Party V Zasulich justifies the flight from the Party by stating that the organisations were becoming deserted "because there was nothing to do in them at the time" V Zasulich is creating a purely anarchist theory of a "broad stratum" instead of a party (See the detailed examination of that theory in *Prosveshcheniye*, No 9, 1913)

What is the fundamental and principal conclusion to be drawn from the documents we have quoted above?

The entire Party, both in 1908 and in 1910, condemned and rejected liquidationism, and clearly and in detail explained the class origin and the danger of this tendency All the liquidationist newspapers and magazines—*Vozrozhdeniye* (1909 10), *Nasha Zarya* (1910 13) *Nevsky Golos* (1912), *Luch* (1912 13) and

<sup>1</sup> An—Noah Jordania, one of the leaders of the Georgian Mensheviks—Ed

*Novaya Rabochaya Gazeta* (1913 14)<sup>1</sup>—all, after the most definite and even unanimous decisions have been adopted by the Party, reiterate thoughts and arguments that contain *obvious* liquidationism

Even the partisans of *Luch* are *forced* to declare that they disagree with these arguments, with this preaching. This is a fact. Therefore, to shout about the “baiting” of liquidators, as Trotsky, Semkovsky and many other patronisers of liquidationism do, is downright dishonesty, for it is a crying distortion of the truth.

The truth proved by the documents I have quoted, which cover a period of more than *five* years (1908 13), is that the liquidators, mocking all the Party decisions, continue to abuse and bait the Party, *i e*, “illegal work”

Every worker who wants seriously to examine the controversial and vexed questions *himself*, who wants to decide these questions *for himself*, must first of all master this truth and take independent measures to investigate and verify the above quoted decisions of the Party and the arguments of the liquidators. Only those who carefully study, ponder over and independently solve the problems and *destiny* of their Party deserve to be called Party members and builders of the workers’ party. It is impossible to treat with indifference the question of whether it is the Party that is “guilty” of “baiting” (*i e*, of too trenchant and mistaken attacks on) the liquidators or whether it is the liquidators who are guilty of *directly violating* Party decisions, of *persistently advocating the liquidation, i e, the destruction, of the Party*.

It is obvious that the Party cannot exist unless it fights the destroyers of the Party with all its might.

<sup>1</sup> See, for example *Novaya Rabochaya Gazeta* 1914 No 1 the New Year editorial “The path to an open political party of action is at the same time the path to Party unity” (to the unity of the builders of the open Party?) Or No 5 1914 “The overcoming of all those obstacles” (which stand in the way of the organisation of labour congresses) is nothing but a most genuine struggle for the freedom of coalition *i e*, for the legality of the labour movement, and is closely connected with the struggle for the open existence of the Social Democratic Labour Party” [Author’s note to this article, reproduced in the volume *Muricism and Liquidationism* in 1914—*Ed Eng ed*]

Having cited the documents on this fundamental question, we shall, in the next article, pass on to the appraisal of the *ideological* content of the preaching of an "open Party"

#### IV THE CLASS MEANING OF LIQUIDATIONISM

In the preceding articles (*Pravda*, Nos 289, 299 and 314) we have shown that all the Marxists, both in 1908 and in 1910, irrevocably condemned liquidationism as the renunciation of the past. The Marxists explained to the working class that liquidation is the instilling of bourgeois influence into the proletariat. And *all* the liquidationist publications, from 1909 up to 1913, flagrantly violated and are still violating the decisions of the Marxists.

Let us consider the slogan, an "open labour party," or "a struggle for an open party," which is still being advocated by the liquidators in *Luch* and *Nasha Zarya*.

Is this slogan Marxian, proletarian, or liberal, bourgeois?

The answer to this question must be sought not in the moods or the plans of the liquidators or of other groups, but in the analysis of the interrelation of the social forces of Russia in the present period. The meaning of slogans is determined not by the intentions of their authors, but by the correlation of forces of *all* the classes in the country.

The feudal landowners and their "bureaucracy" are hostile to all changes in the direction of political liberty. This is understandable. The bourgeoisie, because of its economic position in a backward and semi-feudal country, *cannot but* strive for freedom. But the bourgeoisie fears the activity of the people *more* than it fears reaction. The year 1905 demonstrated this truth with particular clarity, this truth was thoroughly understood by the working class, it was only the opportunist and semi-liberal intellectuals who failed to understand it.

The bourgeoisie is both liberal and counter-revolutionary. Hence its impotent and miserable reformism which borders on the ridiculous. Dreams of reforms—and fear of settling accounts in real earnest with the feudal landowners who not only refuse to grant reforms but even take back those they have already granted.

Preaching reforms—and fear of a popular movement Striving to oust the feudal landowners—and fear of losing *their* support, fear of losing *their own* privileges Upon this interrelation of classes is built up the system of June 16 [3], which gives full power to the feudal landowners and privileges to the bourgeoisie

The class position of the proletariat makes it altogether impossible for it to “share” the privileges or to *be afraid* of anyone losing them That is why selfishly narrow, miserable and dull witted reformism is altogether alien to the proletariat As to the peasant masses—they are, on the one hand, immeasurably oppressed, and instead of enjoying privileges they suffer from starvation, on the other hand, they are undoubtedly petty bourgeois—hence, they inevitably vacillate between the liberals and the workers

Such is the objective situation

From this situation it obviously follows that the slogan of an open labour party is, by its class origin, a slogan of the counter revolutionary liberals It contains nothing save reformism, it does not contain even a hint that the proletariat, the only class that is thoroughly democratic, is conscious of its task of fighting the liberals for influence over the whole of democracy, there is not even a suggestion of destroying the very foundation of all the privileges of the feudal landowners, the bureaucracy, etc, not a thought of the general foundations of political liberty and democratic constitution, instead, this slogan implies the tacit renunciation of the old, and consequently it implies renegacy and the dissolution (liquidation) of the workers’ party

In brief this slogan carries into the midst of the workers in a period of counter revolution the *preaching of the very thing* the liberal bourgeoisie is practising in its own midst Therefore, had there been no liquidators, the clever bourgeois progressives would have had to find, or hire, intellectuals in order to preach this to the working class!

Only brainless people can compare the *words* of the liquidators with their *motives* It is necessary to compare their *words* with the *deeds* and the objective position of the liberal bourgeoisie

Look at these deeds In 1902, the bourgeoisie was *in favour* of illegality Struve was commissioned by it to edit the underground *Osvobozhdeniye* \* When the labour movement led to October 30 [17], the liberals and the Cadets abandoned illegality, then repudiated it, and declared it to be unnecessary, mad, sinful and godless<sup>1</sup> *Instead* of the underground, the liberal bourgeoisie advocated a *struggle for an open party* This is a historical fact, confirmed by the incessant attempts at legalisation made by the Cadets (1905 07) and the Progressives (1913) \*\*\*

Among the Cadets we see "open work and its secret organisation", the kind hearted, *i.e.*, unconscious, liquidator A Vlasov, has only paraphrased the deeds of the Cadets "in his own words"

Why did the liberals renounce illegality and adopt the slogan of "a struggle for an open party"? Is it because Struve is a traitor? No, just the opposite Struve went over to the other side because the entire bourgeoisie turned And the latter turned 1) because it obtained privileges on December 24 [11], 1905,<sup>2</sup> and even on June 16 [3], 1907,<sup>3</sup> it was placed in the position of a *tolerated* opposition, 2) because it itself was mortally frightened by the popular movement The slogan of "a struggle for an open party," when translated from the language of "high politics" into plain and intelligible language, means the following

"Messieurs Landlords! Don't imagine that we want to push you off the earth No, just move up a little and make room for us bourgeois" (an open party)—"we shall then defend you five times more 'cleverly,' cunningly and more 'scientifically' than the Timoshkins and Sabler's priests" \*\*\*\*

In imitation of the Cadets, the slogan of "a struggle for an open party" was taken up by the petty bourgeoisie, the Narodniki In August 1906, Messrs Peshekhonov and Co of *Russkoye Bogatstvo* renounced illegality, proclaimed the "struggle for an open

<sup>1</sup> There is a "remarkable book," *Vekhi*,\*\* which has appeared in numerous editions It contains an excellent summary of these ideas of counter revolutionary liberalism

<sup>2</sup> The date of the promulgation of the law convening the First Duma—*Ed Eng ed*

<sup>3</sup> The date of Stolypin's *coup d'état* and the arrest of the Social Democratic members of the Duma—*Ed Eng ed*

party," and cut out from their programme the consistently democratic "underground" slogans \*

As a result of these philistines' reformist chatter about a "broad and open party" they, as is obvious to all, were left *without any* party at all, *without any* contact with the masses, and the Cadets have even left off dreaming of having such contacts

Only in this way, only by analysing the position of the classes, by analysing the general history of the counter revolution, is it possible to *understand* what liquidationism is. The liquidators are petty bourgeois intellectuals, sent by the bourgeoisie to sow the seeds of liberal corruption among the workers. The liquidators are traitors to Marxism and traitors to democracy. The slogan of "a struggle for an open party" in their case (as well as in the case of the liberals and the Narodniki) only serves to camouflage their renunciation of the past and their *rupture with the working class*. This is a fact that has been proved both by the elections in the workers' electoral colleges for the Fourth Duma and by the history of the origin of *Pravda*, the workers' paper. It was obvious to all that it was those who had not renounced the past and knew how to make use of "open work" and of all and sundry "possibilities" exclusively in the spirit of *that* past, and for the sake of strengthening, consolidating and developing it, who had contacts with the masses.

During the period of the Third of June regime it could not be otherwise.

In our next article we shall speak about the "curtailment" of the programme and tactics by the liquidators (*i.e.*, liberals).

## V THE SLOGAN OF STRUGGLE FOR AN OPEN PARTY

In the preceding article, *Pravda*, No 123, we examined the objective meaning, *i.e.*, the meaning that is determined by the interrelation of classes, of the slogan "an open party" or "a struggle for an open party". This slogan is a slavish repetition of the tactics of the bourgeoisie, for it correctly expresses its renunciation of the revolution or its counter revolutionary character.

Let us consider some of the attempts the liquidators most fre

quently make to defend the slogan of "a struggle for an open party" Mayevsky, Sedov, Dan and all the *Luch* ists try to confuse the open Party with open work or *activity*. Such confusion is down right sophistry, a trick, deception of the reader.

In the first place, the open activity of the Social Democrats during the period 1904-13 is a *fact*. Open party is a *phrase* of the intellectuals, which covers up the renunciation of the Party. Secondly, the Party has repeatedly condemned liquidationism, *i.e.*, the slogan of an open party. But the Party, far from condemning open activities, has, on the contrary, repeatedly condemned those who neglected them or renounced them. In the third place, from 1904 to 1907, open activities were *especially* developed among *all* the Social Democrats. But *not a single* tendency, *not a single* faction of Social Democracy then advanced the slogan "struggle for an open party."

This is a historical fact. It should be pondered over by those who wish to *understand* liquidationism.

Did the absence of the slogan "struggle for an open party" hamper open activities in 1904-07? Not in the least.

Why did no such slogan arise among the Social Democrats *at that time*? Precisely because at that time there was no raging counter revolution to draw a section of the Social Democrats into extreme opportunism. It was only *too clear* at the time that the slogan "struggle for an open party" was an opportunist phrase, a renunciation of "illegality."

Gentlemen, try to grasp the meaning of this historical turn during the period 1905, when there was a splendid development of open activities, there was no slogan of "struggle for an open party"; during the period of counter revolution, when there is a weaker development of open activities, the slogans of renunciation of "illegality" and "struggle for an open party" crop up among a section of the Social Democrats (who follow in the wake of the bourgeois).

Is not the meaning and the class significance of such a turn clear yet?

Finally, the fourth and most important circumstance. Two kinds

of open activity, in two diametrically opposite directions, are possible (and may be observed) one in defence of the old, and entirely in the *spirit* of the old, *in the name* of the slogans and the tactics of the old, and another, *against* the old, in the name of renunciation of the old, the belittling of the role and slogans of the old, etc

The existence of these two kinds of open activity, hostile and irreconcilable in principle, in the period from 1906 (the Cadets and Messrs Peshekhonov and Co) to 1913 (*Luch*, *Nasha Zarya*), is a most indisputable historical fact. Is it possible to restrain a smile when one hears a simpleton (or one who for a while plays the simpleton) say what is there to quarrel about if both the one and the other carry on open activities? The dispute, my dear sir, is precisely about whether these activities should be carried on in defence of "illegality" and its spirit, or in order to degrade it, against it and not in its spirit! The dispute is only—just "*only*"!—about whether the given open work is being conducted in the liberal or in the consistently democratic spirit. The dispute is "*only*" about whether it is possible to *confine* oneself to open work. remember Mr Liberal Struve who did not confine himself to it in 1902, but wholly "*confined* himself" to it in the years 1906-13.

Our liquidators of *Luch* cannot possibly comprehend that the slogan "*struggle for an open party*" means carrying into the midst of the workers liberal (Struveist) ideas, tricked out in the rags of "*near Marxian*" catchwords.

Or take, for instance, the arguments of the editors of *Luch* themselves, in their reply to An (No 181).

"The Social Democratic Party is not limited to those few comrades whom the realities of life force to work underground. Truly, if the entire *Party* were limited to illegality, how many members would it have? Two to three hundred? And where would those thousands if not tens of thousands of workers be who are actually bearing the brunt of the entire Social Democratic work?"

For a thinking person this argument alone suffices to identify its authors as liberals. First, they are telling a deliberate untruth about the "*underground*"! It numbers more than "*hundreds*"



Secondly, all over the world the number of Party members, as compared with the number of workers carrying on Social Democratic work, is "limited". For example, in Germany, there are only one million members in the Social Democratic Party yet the number of votes cast for the Social Democrats is about five million, and the proletariat numbers about fifteen million. The proportion of the number of Party members to the number of Social Democrats is determined in the various countries by the differences in their historical conditions. In the third place, we have nothing that could replace our "underground". Thus, in *opposing* the Party, *Luch* refers to the *non Party* workers, or those who are *outside the Party*. This is the usual method of the liberal who tries to cut off the masses from their *class conscious* vanguard. *Luch* does not understand the relation between Party and *class*, just as the "Economists" in 1895-1901 failed to understand it. In the fourth place, our "Social Democratic work" is real Social Democratic work only in so far as it is conducted *in the spirit* of the old, under its slogans.

The arguments of *Luch* are the arguments of liberal intellectuals, who, unwilling to join the actually existing Party organisation, try to *destroy* that organisation by inciting against it the non Party, scattered mass, whose class consciousness is little developed. The German liberals do the same, alleging that the Social Democrats do not represent the proletariat since their 'Party' comprises "only" one fifteenth of the proletariat!

Take the even more common argument advanced by *Luch*. "We" are for an open party, "just as in Europe". The liberals and the liquidators want a constitution and an open party, "as in Europe" *today*, but they do not want the path by which Europe reached that today.

Kossovsky, a liquidator and Bundist, teaches us in *Luch* to follow the example of the Austrians. But he forgets that the Austrians have had a constitution *since 1867*, and that they could not have had it without, 1) the movement of 1848, 2) the profound political crisis of 1859-66, when the *weakness* of the working class allowed Bismarck and Co. to *extricate* themselves by means of the

famous "revolution from above" <sup>1</sup> What then is the outcome of the discourses of Kossovsky, Dan, Larin and all the *Luch* ists?

The only outcome is that they help to solve our crisis in the spirit of "revolution" necessarily "from above" <sup>1</sup> But such work is precisely the "work" of Stolypin's Labour Party

No matter where we look—we see the liquidators renouncing both Marxism and democracy

In the next article we shall examine in detail their arguments concerning the necessity of curtailing our Social Democratic slogans

## VI

We must now consider the curtailment of Marxian slogans by the liquidators For this purpose it would be best to take the decisions of their August conference, but for obvious reasons it is possible to analyse these decisions only in the press published abroad Here we are obliged to quote *Luch* which in the article by L S (No 108-194), gave a remarkably precise exposition of the whole essence, the whole spirit of liquidationism

Mr L S writes as follows

"The deputy Muranov so far recognises only three partial demands, which, as is known, were the three pillars of the electoral platform of the Lenin ists: the complete democratisation of the state system, an eight hour day and the transfer of the land to the peasants *Pravda*, too, continues to maintain this point of view Yet we, as well as the whole of European Social Democracy" (read—"we, and also Milyukov, who assures us that, thank God, we have a constitution"), "see in the advancing of partial demands a method of agitation which may be crowned with success only if it reckons with the everyday struggle of the working masses We think that only that which, on the one hand, is of fundamental importance for the further development of the labour movement, and, on the other hand, may acquire urgency for the masses, should be advanced as the partial demand upon which, at the given moment the Social Democrats should concentrate their attention Of the three demands advanced by *Pravda*, only one—the eight hour day—plays and can play a part in the everyday struggle of the workers The other two demands may at the present moment serve as subjects for propaganda, but not for agitation Concerning the difference between propaganda and agitation, see the brilliant pages of G V Plekhanov's pamphlet, *The Struggle Against Famine*" (L S has got into the wrong

<sup>1</sup> See note to page 77 \*\*—Ed Eng ed

box it is painful for him to recall Plekhanov's controversy in 1899-1902 with the "Economists" whom L. S. is copying!)

"Apart from the eight hour day, the demand for the right of association, the right to form any kind of organisation with the corresponding right of assembly and speech, both oral and printed, is a partial demand advanced both by the requirements of the labour movement and by the entire course of Russian life"

Here we have the tactics of the liquidators. What L. S. describes by the words "complete democratisation, etc.," and what he calls the "transfer of the land to the peasants"\* are *not*, you see, of "urgency for the masses," they are not advanced "by the requirements of the labour movement" and "the entire course of Russian life." How old are these arguments and how familiar are they to those who remember the *history* of Russian Marxian practice, its many years of struggle against the "Economists," who renounced the tasks of democracy! With what talent *Luch* copies the views of Prokopovich and Kuskova, who in *those days* tried to entice the workers on to the liberal path!

However, let us examine the arguments of *Luch* more closely. From the point of view of common sense these arguments are sheer madness. Is it really possible to assert, without having taken leave of one's senses, that the above mentioned "peasant" demand (i.e., one that is to benefit the peasants) is *not* of "urgency for the masses"? is *not* "advanced both by the requirements of the labour movement and by the entire course of Russian life"? This is not only an untruth, it is a howling absurdity. The entire history of Russia in the nineteenth century, the entire "course of Russian life" has advanced that question, has *made* it urgent, nay, most urgent. This has been reflected in the *whole* of the legislation of Russia. How could *Luch* arrive at such a monstrous untruth?

It had to arrive at it because *Luch* is in bondage to liberal policy and the liberals are true to themselves when they reject (or, like *Luch*, put off) the peasants' demand. The liberal bourgeoisie does so, because its *class* position forces it to humour the landlords and to oppose the people's movement.

*Luch* brings to the workers the ideas of the liberal landlords and is guilty of treachery to the democratic peasantry.

Furthermore, can it be that only the right of association is of "urgency"? What about the inviolability of person? or the abolition of despotism and tyranny? or universal, etc., suffrage? or a single Chamber, etc.? Every literate worker, everyone who bears in mind the recent past, knows extremely well that all this is urgent. In thousands of articles and speeches all the liberals acknowledge that all this is urgent. Why then did *Luch* declare only one of these, albeit the most important of liberties, to be urgent, while the fundamental conditions of political liberty, of democracy and of a constitutional regime<sup>1</sup> were struck out, put off, relegated to the archives of "propaganda," and excluded from agitation?

The reason, and the only reason, is that *Luch* does not accept what is *unacceptable to the liberals*.

From the standpoint of urgency for the masses, of the requirements of the labour movement and of the course of Russian life, there is *no* difference between the three demands of Muranov and of *Pravda* (or, to put it briefly, the demands of consistent Marxists). The demands of the workers and the demands of the peasants and the general political demands are all of equal urgency for the masses, they are all *equally* advanced to the forefront both by the requirements of the labour movement and "the entire course of Russian life." All three demands are also alike from the standpoint of the "partialness" dear to our worshipper of moderation and accuracy: they are "partial" in relation to the final aims, but they are very high in relation, for example, to "Europe" in general.

Why then does *Luch* accept the eight hour day and reject the rest? Why did it decide *for* the workers that the eight hour day does "play a part" in their everyday struggle whereas the general political and peasant demands do *not* play such a part? Facts show, on the one hand, that the workers in their daily struggle advance general political as well as peasant demands—and, on the other hand, that they often *fight* for more moderate reductions of the working day.

What is the trouble, then?

The trouble lies in the reformism of *Luch*, which, as usual,

<sup>1</sup> See note to page 143 \*—*Fd Eng ed*

attributes its own liberal narrow mindedness to the "masses," to the "course of history," etc

Reformism, in general, means that people confine themselves to agitation for changes which do not require the removal of the main foundations of the old ruling class, changes that are *compatible* with the *preservation* of these foundations. The eight hour day is compatible with the preservation of the power of capital. The Russian liberals in order to attract the workers, are themselves prepared to endorse ("as far as possible") this demand. On the other hand, those demands for which *Luch* does not want to "agitate" are *incompatible* with the preservation of the foundations of the pre capitalist period, the period of serfdom.

*Luch* eliminates from the agitation precisely that which is not acceptable to the liberals, who do not want to abolish the power of the landlords, but want only to share their power and privileges. *Luch* eliminates precisely that which is incompatible with the point of view of reformism.

That's the whole point!

Neither Muranov, nor *Pravda*, nor any Marxist rejects partial demands. That is nonsense. Take insurance,\* for example. We reject the *deception* of the people by idle talk about partial demands by means of *reformism*. We reject as utopian, self seeking and false the *liberal reformism* in present day Russia, the reformism based on constitutional illusions and full of the spirit of servility to the landlord. That is the point which *Luch* tries to confuse and hide by phrases about "partial demands" in general, although it itself admits that neither Muranov nor *Pravda* rejects certain "partial demands."

*Luch* curtails the Marxian slogans, tries to fit them into the narrow, reformist, liberal measure, and thus carries bourgeois ideas into the ranks of the workers.

The struggle the Marxists waged against the liquidators is nothing but an expression of the struggle of the progressive workers against the liberal bourgeois for influence over the masses of the people, for their political enlightenment and education.

April June 1913



PART II  
THE YEARS OF REVIVAL  
(1912 1914)





## EXCERPTS FROM THE RESOLUTIONS OF THE PRAGUE CONFERENCE OF THE RUSSIAN SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC LABOUR PARTY\*

### THE PRESENT SITUATION AND THE TASKS OF THE PARTY\*\*

THE conference first of all confirms the resolution on the Third of June regime and the tasks of the Party that was passed by the Party Conference of December 1908<sup>1</sup> The conference points out the particularly great importance of that resolution, whose theses on the historic importance and the class essence of the entire Third of June regime, on the one hand, and on the maturing of the revolutionary crisis, on the other, are fully borne out by the events of the past three years

Of these events the conference notes the following in particular

a) The tsarist agrarian policy—with which the government parties of the landlords, the big bourgeoisie, and, in fact, counter revolutionary liberalism also, have bound up their counter revolutionary interests—has not only failed to lead to the establishment of anything like stable bourgeois relations in the rural districts, but has not relieved the peasants of mass starvation, which reveals an extreme change for the worse in the conditions of the population and an enormous waste of the productive forces of the country

b) While remaining impotent against the competition of the modern capitalist states in the world market and pressed more and more into the background in Europe, tsarism, in alliance with the Black Hundred nobility and the growing industrial bourgeoisie is now attempting to satisfy its predatory interests by means of a crude "nationalist" policy directed against the borderlands, against all the oppressed nationalities, against the more cultured

<sup>1</sup> See present volume, pp 13-16—*Ed Eng ed*

regions (Finland, Poland, the Northwestern Region) in particular, and also by means of colonial conquest directed against the peoples of Asia (Persia, China) who are waging a revolutionary struggle for liberation

c) The economic boom is to an enormous extent nullified by the state of complete disorganisation in the economic conditions of the peasantry, by the rapacious budget policy of the autocracy and by the corruption of the bureaucratic machine, while, on the other hand, the increasing cost of living intensifies the misery of the working class and of the broad masses of the population

d) In view of this, during the five years the Third Duma has existed, the broad masses of the population have become more and more convinced of the unwillingness, inability and impotence of the Duma to do anything to improve the conditions of the broad masses of the people, and have become more and more convinced of the anti popular character of the parties predominating in that Duma

e) The beginning of a political revival is to be observed among wide circles of democracy and above all among the proletariat. The workers' strikes in 1910 11, the beginning of demonstrations and proletarian meetings, the beginning of a movement among the urban bourgeois democracy (the student strikes), etc—all these are manifestations of the growing revolutionary spirit among the masses against the June 16 [3] regime

Basing itself on all these data, the conference confirms the tasks confronting the Party that were enumerated in detail in the resolution of the conference of December 1908, and points out especially that the task of the capture of power by the proletariat, which leads the peasantry, remains, as heretofore, the task of the democratic revolution in Russia. The conference especially draws the attention of comrades to the fact that

1) Prolonged work of socialist training, organisation and consolidation of the advanced masses of the proletariat is, as heretofore, first and foremost on the order of the day,

2) Intensified work must be carried on to restore the underground organisation of the Russian Social Democratic Labour Party, which, more extensively than heretofore, takes advantage of

all legal possibilities, which is capable of leading the economic struggle of the proletariat, and is the only party capable of leading its ever increasing political activities,

3) It is necessary to organise and expand systematic political agitation, to give all possible support to the incipient mass movement and to secure its expansion under the banner of the full, uncurtailed slogans of the Party. The republican propaganda against the policy of the tsarist monarchy must be specially pushed forward also to counterbalance the widespread propaganda for curtailing the slogans and for confining the work to the limits of existing "legality"

### LIQUIDATIONISM AND THE GROUP OF LIQUIDATORS\*

Taking into consideration

1) That for about four years the Russian Social Democratic Labour Party has been waging a determined struggle against the liquidationist tendency, which at the Party Conference of December 1908 was defined as

"the attempts of a certain section of the Party intelligentsia to liquidate the existing organisation of the Russian Social Democratic Labour Party and substitute for it an amorphous association within the limits of legality at all costs, even if this legality is to be attained at the price of an open renunciation of the programme, tactics and traditions of the Party";

2) That the plenum of the Central Committee in January 1910, in continuing its struggle against this tendency, unanimously recognised it as a manifestation of the influence of the bourgeoisie over the proletariat and stipulated for a complete rupture with liquidationism and the final overcoming of this bourgeois deviation from socialism as a condition of real Party unity and fusion of the former factions of the Bolsheviks and the Mensheviks,

3) That in spite of all the decisions of the Party and in spite of the obligation undertaken by the representatives of all the factions at the plenum in January 1910, the section of the Social Democrats grouped around the magazines *Nasha Zarya* and *Dyelo Zhizni* openly took up the defence of the tendency which was recognised by the entire Party to be the product of bourgeois influence over the proletariat,

4) That the ex members of the Central Committee, Mikhail, Yury and Roman<sup>1</sup> not only refused to join the Central Committee in the spring of 1910, but declined even to attend one meeting for the purpose of co-opting new members, and openly declared that they considered the very existence of the Central Committee of the Party to be "harmful",

5) That since that very plenum of 1910 the above mentioned principal publications of the liquidators, *Nasha Zarya* and *Dyelo Zhizni*, have turned decidedly and along the whole line towards liquidationism, not only "belittling" (in spite of the decisions of the plenum) "the importance of the illegal Party," but directly renouncing the Party, calling it a "corpse," declaring the Party to be already dissolved, describing the restoration of an illegal Party as a "reactionary utopia," heaping calumny and abuse on the illegal Party in the pages of the legal magazines, calling upon the workers to consider the Party nuclei and the Party hierarchy to be "atrophied," etc ,

6) That while all over Russia, Party men, irrespective of faction, have united for the urgent task of convening a Party conference, the liquidators, having segregated themselves into quite independent grouplets, have split off even in those localities where Party Mensheviks predominate (Ekaterinoslav, Kiev), and have definitely refused to maintain any Party contacts with the local organisations of the Russian Social Democratic Labour Party,

The conference declares that the group represented by *Nasha Zarya* and *Dyelo Zhizni* has, by its behaviour, definitely placed itself outside the Party

The conference calls upon all Party men, irrespective of tendency and shade of opinion, to wage a fight against liquidationism, to explain its utter harmfulness to the cause of the liberation of the working class and to exert every effort to restore and strengthen the illegal Russian Social Democratic Labour Party

#### THE NATURE AND ORGANISATIONAL FORMS OF PARTY WORK \*

Recognising that the experience of the last three years has undoubtedly confirmed the basic propositions of the resolution on

<sup>1</sup> See note to page 37 \*—*Fd. Enq. ad*

the organisational question passed by the conference in December (1908) and being of the opinion that on the basis of the incipient revival of the labour movement a further development of the organisational forms of Party work becomes possible along the same path, *i e.*, along the path of setting up illegal Social Democratic nuclei surrounded by the widest possible network of legally existing labour societies of all kinds,

The conference is of the opinion

1) That the illegal Party organisations must take a most active part in the leadership of the *economic struggle* (strikes, strike committees, etc.), and that co operation in this field is necessary between the illegal Party nuclei and the trade unions, especially Social Democratic nuclei in the trade unions and also the individual comrades who are active in the trade union movement,

2) That it is desirable, in conformity with the local conditions, to combine the Social Democratic nuclei in the trade unions, which are organised on an *industrial* basis, with the Party nuclei which are built up on a territorial basis,

3) That it is necessary to display the greatest possible initiative in organising Social Democratic work in legally existing societies trade unions, reading rooms, libraries, all kinds of workers' recreation societies, in distributing trade union journals and in guiding the trade union press in the spirit of Marxism, in utilising the Duma speeches of the Social Democrats, in training lecturers for legal meetings from among the workers, in setting up (in connection with the elections to the Fourth Duma) workers' and other electoral committees according to districts, streets, etc., in Social Democratic agitation in connection with the municipal elections, etc.,

4) That strenuous efforts must be made to strengthen and increase the number of illegal Party nuclei, to discover new and most flexible organisational forms for these nuclei, to create and consolidate the leading illegal Party organisations in every town, and to propagate such forms of mass illegal organisation as "labour exchanges," Party meetings at factories, etc.,

5) That it is desirable to draw the propaganda circles into everyday *practical* work distribution of illegal Social Democratic and legally published Marxian literature, etc.,

6) That it is necessary to bear in mind that systematic literary Social Democratic agitation and especially an illegal Party news paper, appearing regularly and frequently, can assume great importance in the matter of establishing organisational contacts among the various illegal nuclei as well as among the various Social Democratic nuclei in the legally existing workers' societies

January 1912

## THE REVOLUTIONARY REVIVAL\*

THE tremendous May strike of the proletariat all over Russia accompanied by street demonstrations, the distribution of revolutionary manifestoes, and the delivery of revolutionary speeches before crowds of workers, clearly shows that Russia has entered upon a period of revolutionary revival

This revival has not come as a bolt from the blue No, it was prepared long ago by all the conditions of Russian life, and the mass strikes in connection with the Lena shootings and May Day only definitely marked its arrival The temporary triumph of the counter revolution was indissolubly bound up with a depression in the mass struggle of the workers The number of strikers gives, although only an approximate yet an absolutely objective and precise idea of the magnitude of that struggle

During the ten years preceding the revolution, from 1895 to 1904, the average number of strikers was 43,000 per annum (roughly), in 1905—2,750,000, in 1906—1,000,000, in 1907—750,000 The three years of the revolution were marked by a rise in the strike movement of the proletariat *unparalleled anywhere in the world* Its decline, which began in 1906 and 1907, was definitely marked in 1908—175,000 strikers The *coup d'état* of June 16 [3], 1907, which restored the tsarist autocracy in alliance with the Duma of the Black Hundred landlords and commercial industrial money bags, was the inevitable result of the decline of the revolutionary energy of the masses

The three years 1908-10 were the period of the high tide of the Black Hundred counter revolution, of liberal bourgeois renegacy and of proletarian despondency and disintegration The number of strikers steadily dropped, reaching 60,000 in 1909 and 50,000 in 1910

However, a marked change set in at the end of 1910 The demon

strations in connection with the death of the liberal, Muromtsev, and of Leo Tolstoy, and also the student movement,\* clearly indicated that there was something new in the air, that a certain change had taken place in the mood of the democratic masses. The year 1911 witnessed a slow transition to an offensive on the part of the working masses: the number of strikers rose to 100,000. Signs from various quarters indicate that the weariness, the stupor generated by the triumph of the counter revolution, is passing away, that once again the tendency is towards revolution. In summing up the situation, the All Russian Conference in January 1912 stated

"The beginning of a political revival is to be observed among wide circles of democracy and above all among the proletariat. The workers' strikes in 1910-11 the beginning of demonstrations and proletarian meetings the beginning of a movement among the urban bourgeois democracy (the student strikes), etc.—all these are manifestations of the growing revolutionary spirit among the masses against the June 16 [3] regime"<sup>1</sup> (See the Announcement of the Conference, p. 18)

By the second quarter of this year this spirit had risen to such an extent that it manifested itself in the actions of the masses, and it created a *revolutionary upsurge*. The course of events during the past year and a half shows with perfect clarity that there is nothing accidental in this revival, that its advent is quite natural and that it is inevitably conditioned by the whole of the previous development of Russia.

The Lena shootings served as the stimulus which transformed the revolutionary temper of the masses into the revolutionary upsurge of the masses.<sup>2</sup> Nothing is more false than the liberal invention, which is repeated after the liquidators by Trotsky and the Vienna *Pravda*, that the "struggle for the right of coalition is the basis of both the Lena tragedy and the powerful echo it found in the country." The right of coalition was neither the specific nor the principal demand in the Lena strike. It was not lack of the right of coalition that the Lena shootings revealed, but the lack of

<sup>1</sup> Lenin quotes here the resolution of the Prague Conference of 1912, "The Present Situation and the Tasks of the Party." See present volume, page 150.—*Ed Eng ed*

<sup>2</sup> See note to page 155.—*Ed Eng ed*



freedom from provocation, lack of general rights, lack of freedom from wholesale tyranny

The Lena shootings as we have already made clear in *Sotsial Demokrat*, No 26,\* was an exact reflection of the *entire* regime of the Third of June monarchy. It was not the struggle for one of the *rights* of the proletariat, even though one of the cardinal, one of the most important, that was characteristic of the Lena events. What was characteristic of these events was the complete absence of elementary legality in *all* respects. The characteristic feature was that an *agent provocateur*, a spy, a secret service agent, a servant of the tsar, resorted to mass shootings without any political reason whatever. It is precisely this general tyranny in Russian life, it is precisely the hopelessness and impossibility of waging a struggle for particular *rights*, precisely this incorrigibility of the tsar's monarchy and of its entire regime, which stood out so clearly against the background of the Lena events that they *inflamed* the masses with *revolutionary* fire.

Though the liberals were and are straining every nerve in the effort to stamp the Lena events and the May strikes as a trade union movement and a struggle for "rights," still, to everyone who is not blinded by the liberal (and liquidationist) controversies, something different becomes obvious. What is obvious is the *revolutionary* character of the mass strike which was especially emphasised in the St. Petersburg May Day manifesto, issued by the various groups of Social Democrats (and even by one workers' social revolutionary group!), which we reprint in full in our news section, and which repeats the slogans advanced by the All Russian Conference of the Russian Social Democratic Labour Party in January 1912 \*\*

And it is not really the slogans that provide the main corroboration of the revolutionary character of the Lena and May strikes. The slogans *formulated* what the facts showed. These facts: the mass strikes affecting district after district, their enormous growth, the rapidity with which they spread, the boldness of the workers, the greater frequency of meetings and revolutionary speeches, the demand to cancel the fine for celebrating May Day, the combination of the political and the economic strike, familiar to us from the time

of the first Russian revolution—all this obviously points to the true character of the movement, *i e., the revolutionary upsurge of the masses*

Let us recall the experience of 1905. Events show that the *tradition* of the revolutionary mass strike is *alive* among the workers and that the workers at once took up and revived that tradition. The strike wave of 1905, unparalleled in the world, combining both the political and economic strike, involved 810,000 strikers during the first, and 1,277,000 during the last quarter of the year. According to approximate estimates the Lena strikes involved some 300,000 workers, those of May—400,000, and strikes continue to grow in number. Every new issue of the newspapers—even of the liberal newspapers—informs us how the strike conflagration is spreading. The second quarter of 1912 is not quite over, yet even now we get definite indications of the fact that, judging by the extent of the strike movement, the beginning of the revolutionary upsurge in 1912 is not *lower but rather higher* than the corresponding beginning in 1905.

It was the Russian revolution that for the first time developed on a large scale this method of agitation, of rousing and consolidating the masses and of drawing them into the struggle. Now the proletariat is applying this method once again and with a firmer hand. No power on earth could achieve what the revolutionary vanguard of the proletariat is achieving by this method. An enormous country, with a population of 150,000,000, spread over a tremendous area, scattered, oppressed, deprived of all rights, ignorant, fenced off from "evil influences" by a swarm of authorities, police, spies—the *whole* of this country is beginning to get into a ferment. The most backward strata of the workers and peasants are coming into direct or indirect contact with the strikers. Hundreds of thousands of revolutionary agitators are suddenly appearing on the scene. Their influence is infinitely increased by the fact that they are indissolubly bound up with the lower strata, with the masses, they remain in their ranks, fight for the most urgent needs of *every* worker's family, combine with this immediate struggle for the daily economic needs a political protest and struggle against the monarchy. For counter-revolution has roused in

millions and tens of millions of people a bitter hatred for the monarchy, the rudiments of an understanding of the latter's role, and now the slogan of the advanced workers of the capitals—long live the democratic republic—is moving ever onward through thousands of channels, in the wake of every strike, into the backward strata, to the remotest places, to the "people," "into the depths of Russia"!

Very characteristic is the dissertation on strikes made by the liberal, Severyanin, which was gladly accepted by *Russkiye Vye domosti*<sup>1</sup> and approvingly reprinted in *Rech*

"Have the workers any grounds for adding economic or any other" (1) 'demands to a May Day strike?' asks Mr Severyanin, and he answers "I am bold enough to think that there are none. Every economic strike can and must be begun only after a serious consideration of its chances of success. That is why to connect such strikes particularly with May Day is more often than not unreasonable. And it is rather strange we celebrate the world labour festival and on that account demand a ten per cent increase on calico of such and such a quality"

This is how a liberal reasons! And this boundless vulgarity, meanness and vileness is accepted with sympathy by the "best" liberal papers which claim to be democratic

The coarsest greediness of a bourgeois, the vilest cowardice of a counter revolutionary—that is what is concealed behind the showy phrases of a liberal. He wants to safeguard the pockets of the employers. He wants an "orderly," "harmless" demonstration in favour of the "right of coalition"! And the proletariat, instead of this, draws the masses into a *revolutionary* strike, which indissolubly links up politics with economics, a strike which attracts to it self the most backward strata by the success of the struggle for an immediate improvement in the workers' life, and which, at the same time, rouses the people *against the tsarist monarchy*

Yes, the experience of 1905 created a profound and great tradition of mass strikes. And it must not be forgotten to what these strikes in Russia are leading. Stubborn mass strikes are indissolubly bound up in our country with *armed insurrection*

Let these words not be misinterpreted. We are not discussing a

<sup>1</sup> *Russian News*—Ed. Eng. ed.

call for an uprising. Such a call would be most unwise at this juncture. What we are discussing is the establishment of a *connection* between a strike and insurrection in Russia.

How did the uprising of 1905 *grow*? In the first place, mass strikes, demonstrations and meetings caused the clashes between the crowd and the police and military forces to become more frequent. Secondly, the mass strikes roused the peasantry to a number of partial, sporadic, semi-spontaneous uprisings. Thirdly, the mass strikes very rapidly spread to the army and navy, causing clashes on an economic basis (the "pea" and similar "riots") and then insurrections. Fourthly, counter-revolution *itself* started civil war by means of pogroms, the beating up of democrats, etc.

The Revolution of 1905 resulted in a defeat not because it went "too far," or because the December uprising was "artificial," as is the opinion of the renegades among the liberals, etc. On the contrary, the cause of the defeat was that the uprising did not go *far enough*, that the consciousness of its necessity was inadequately spread and was not thoroughly assimilated by the revolutionary classes, that the uprising was not unanimous, decisive, organised, simultaneous, aggressive.

Let us now see whether signs of *growth of uprising* can be observed at the present time. In order not to be carried away by revolutionary enthusiasm, let us call the *Octobrists* as witnesses. The German Union of Octobrists in St. Petersburg consists mainly of so-called "Left" and "constitutional" Octobrists who are particularly popular among the Cadets, and who are most capable (in comparison with the other Octobrists and Cadets) of observing events "objectively" without making it their aim to frighten the authorities with the prospect of revolution.

The *St. Petersburg Zeitung*, the organ of these Octobrists, wrote the following in its weekly political review of May 19 [6]

"May has come. Independently of the weather, this month is usually not a very pleasant one for the inhabitants of the capital, because it begins with a *proletarian festival*." This year, with the impression of the Lena demonstrations still fresh in the minds of the workers, the first of May was particularly dangerous. In the air of the capital, saturated with all kinds of rumours concerning strikes and demonstrations, there was a foreboding of a conflagration. Our loyal police were perceptibly agitated, they organised searches,

arrested individuals, mobilised big detachments to prevent street demonstrations. The fact that the police found nothing more intelligent to do than to search the editorial offices of the workers' papers and arrest their editors does not testify to a particularly profound understanding of the strings by which the toy regiments of the workers were pulled. Yet such strings exist. This is borne out by the disciplined character of the strike and by many other circumstances. That is why this May Day strike is so dreadful, the biggest strike of all we have witnessed so far—some 100,000 or perhaps even 150,000 workers of big and small workshops went on strike. It was only a peaceful parade, but the solidarity of this army was remarkable. And the more so since, in addition to the recent excitement of the workers, other alarming symptoms were noted. On various ships of our navy, *sailors* were arrested for revolutionary propaganda. Judging by all the information which has found its way into the press, the situation is not very good on our war ships, which are not numerous as it is. *Railwaymen* are also giving cause for disquietude. Nowhere, it is true, did things reach the stage of even an attempt to organise a strike, but arrests, especially such as are particularly remarkable, *e.g.*, the arrest of A. A. Ushakov, the assistant chief of the Nicholas Railway Station, show that there is a certain danger even there.

'The revolutionary attempts of immature labour masses can, of course, have only a harmful effect on the result of the elections to the Duma. These attempts are the more foolhardy since 'the tsar has appointed Manukhin,\* and the State Council has approved of workers' insurance!'

Such are the arguments of a German Octobrist. We on our part will observe that we have received precise local information about the sailors, information which proves that this affair has been exaggerated and inflated by *Novoye Vremya*. The secret police is obviously "working" in a provocative fashion. Premature attempts at an uprising would be utterly unwise. The workers' vanguard must understand that the principal conditions of a timely, *i.e.*, victorious, armed uprising in Russia are the support of the working class by the democratic peasantry and the active participation of the army.

Mass strikes in revolutionary epochs have their objective logic. They scatter hundreds of thousands and millions of sparks in all directions—and round about there is inflammable material of most extreme bitterness, unprecedented pangs of hunger, boundless tyranny, shameless and cynical mockery at the "pauper," the "muzhik," the private soldier. Add to this the unbridled Jew baiting and incitement to pogroms carried on by the Black Hundreds, a baiting fostered and directed in an underhand fashion by the Court gang of the dull-witted and blood-thirsty Nicholas Romanov.

"So it was and so it will be" The Minister Makarov \* uttered these words of revelation at his own peril, at the peril of his class and his landlord tear!

The revolutionary upsurge of the masses imposes great and responsible duties on every worker Social Democrat, on every honest democrat "To give all possible support to the incipient mass movement" (now we should say the *revolutionary* mass movement *which has now commenced*) "and to secure its expansion under the banner of the full, uncurtailed slogans of the Party"—this is how the All Russian Conference of the Russian Social Democratic Labour Party defined these duties. The Party slogans—a democratic republic, the eight hour day, the confiscation of all the land lords' estates—must become the slogans of the *entire* democracy, the slogans of the *people's* revolution.

In order to support and extend the movement of the masses, we require *organisation and organisation*. Without an illegal Party it is impossible to conduct this work, and it is quite useless talking about it. In supporting and extending the onslaught of the masses we must carefully take into account the experience of 1905, and while explaining the need for and inevitability of an uprising, we must warn against and put a restraining hand upon *premature* attempts at uprising. The growth of mass strikes, the drawing of other classes into the struggle, the state of the organisations, the temper of the masses—all this will of itself indicate the moment when all forces will have to unite in a unanimous, determined, aggressive, recklessly bold onslaught of the revolution upon the tsarist monarchy.

Without a victorious revolution there will be no freedom in Russia.

Without the overthrow of the tsarist monarchy by a proletarian and peasant uprising, there will be no victorious revolution in Russia.

June 1912

## THE PRESENT SITUATION IN THE RUSSIAN SOCIAL- DEMOCRATIC LABOUR PARTY

*To the Executive Committee of the German  
Social Democratic Party \**

DEAR COMRADES

Recently we received a copy of a letter sent to you by the Foreign Committee of the Lettish Social Democrats dated June 24 [11] We did not think it necessary to explain the queer plan of these Letts to you, as we were of the opinion that no well informed person would treat this plan seriously However, from your letter to us of July 22 [9] we learned with surprise that you propose to adopt that plan This compels us to express our emphatic protest, which we hereby send you Objectively, the intention of the Executive Committee is nothing short of an attempt to contribute to the split in our Party (the Russian Social Democratic Labour Party) and to the creation of a new party hostile to us This is unparalleled in the history of the whole International We shall explain this in detail to the German comrades

### THE SITUATION IN THE RUSSIAN SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC LABOUR PARTY SINCE JANUARY 1912

In January 1912 the All Russian Conference of the RSDLP was held at which delegates from the following organisations attended the St Petersburg, Moscow, Moscow Regional, Kazan, Saratov, Tiflis, Baku, Nikolayev, Kiev, Ekaterinoslav, Vilna and Dvinsk organisations This conference restored the Party, elected a new Central Committee in place of the one destroyed by the liquidators, and was forced to declare these liquidators to be outside of the Party (See pamphlet, *The Anonymous Writer of the "Vorwärts" and the Situation in the RSDLP*,\*\* which was sent to the Executive Committee, it mentioned the protests of the li

liquidators and of the national organisations the Poles, the Letts, the Bund and the groups abroad )

In January also a meeting was held for the purpose of setting up an Organisation Committee to convene a new conference,\* a "general Party conference," as it was called by the liquidators and their friends

In their letter to the Executive Committee of June 24 [11], the Letts affirmed that this "Organisation Committee" was formed by the following organisations and tendencies the Bund, the Lettish Social Democrats, the Caucasian Regional Committee, the Menshevik *Golos Sotsial Demokrata*, the Vienna *Pravda* and the *Vperyod* group

Thus, on one side, there is the Central Committee of the RSDLP that was elected at the conference by the Russian organisations, *i.e.*, those working in Russia (the opponents call it the Leninist tendency), on the other side, the so called Organisation Committee, which promises the convocation of a "general" Party conference

#### WHAT IS THE RELATION OF THE HITHERTO NEUTRAL RUSSIAN SOCIAL DEMOCRATS TO THE SO CALLED ORGANISATION COMMITTEE?

Plekhanov, the best known of the Mensheviks, who had been fighting resolutely against the destruction of the Party by the liquidators, did not attend the January Party Conference, although he was invited In April 1912 he published his correspondence with the representative of the Organisation Committee (See his *Diary of a Social Democrat*, No 16 )

Plekhanov refused to take part in the so called Organisation Committee on the ground that the Bund was not calling a conference of the existing Party organisations, but an "*inaugural conference*," *i.e.*, a conference intended to form a new party The so called initiating groups, which in reality are the only groups that support the Organisation Committee, are, according to Plekhanov's statement, liquidationist groups, which do not belong to the Party and want to form a new party In April 1912, Plekhanov wrote "The new conference is being called by the liquidators "



In July, No 3 of the Organisation Committee's *Listok* appeared. It did not contain a word, not even a hint of a reply to Plekhanov. One can judge from this how the Executive Committee is kept informed by the Letts, by the very Letts who complain that the "Leninist" Central Committee does not reply to the letters of the Organisation Committee.

Is there anything strange in the fact that the Central Committee of the Party, of the old Party, does not reply to those who, according to the hitherto neutral Plekhanov, are creating a new party?

The Organisation Committee must first of all prove to the neutral Plekhanov that it is not forming a new party and is not liquidating the old one.

The Letts who are taking part in the Organisation Committee and who appealed to the Executive Committee on June 24 [11] should now, after half a year's struggle of this Organisation Committee of the liquidators against the Party, show by facts and documents the results of this struggle, instead of this they show to the Executive Committee

#### POTEMKIN VILLAGES OF THE LIQUIDATORS <sup>1</sup>

The Letts proposed that the Executive Committee convene eleven "organisational" centres, organisations and factions of Russian Social Democracy. That is literally what they stated (See page 4 of the letter of the Letts to the Executive Committee of June 24 [11]).

Hitherto, all over the world parties have been formed of local organisations united by a single central institution. But in 1912, the Russian and the Lettish liquidators made a great discovery: henceforth it will be possible to create a party consisting of "centres, organisations and factions."

According to the latest Lettish liquidationist electoral geometry, the eleven organisational centres, organisations and factions consist of: first, the Organisation Committee, and, secondly, the six

<sup>1</sup> When Catherine II made a tour of the South of Russia which had just been conquered and laid waste by her favourite, Potemkin, the latter erected a number of stage scene villages along the route in order to impress her with the wealth and beauty of the country he had just gained for her —  
*Ed Eng ed*

factions, or organisations, or centres *which comprise that Organisation Committee* The letter of the Letts states explicitly "Points 2 to 7 inclusive form the Organisation Committee"

Thus the groups of the intelligentsia that are dissolving the Party obtain a treble vote, like the aristocracy in the "rotten boroughs"

1) The Caucasian Regional Committee is a fictitious organisation,

2) Ditto represented by the Paris *Golos*, although *Golos* has no permanent mandate from the Caucasus,

3) Ditto, represented by the Organisation Committee

We assert that the Russian workers will indignantly and contemptuously reject the idea of discussing the question concerning double candidatures, *i.e.*, the attempt of the liquidators conjointly with the insignificant groups abroad to cause a split, the more so since these groups represent only disruptionist intellectuals

We categorically assert that not a single one of the groups abroad that are waging a struggle against the Party has during the past half year received a mandate from any of the organisations in Russia to run their organs or issue leaflets The Letts wish to prove the contrary to the Executive Committee, let them, then, mention in the Russian press at least one such mandate issued prior to July 22 [9]

*Golos Sotsial Demokrata* is not an organ of any Russian organisation,

Nor is Trotsky's Vienna *Pravda* an organ representing any Russian organisation Three years ago *Pravda* was the organ of the Ukrainian "Spilka"<sup>1</sup> (Southern Russia),\* but "Spilka" annulled its mandate long ago

Neither *Vperyod*, nor Plekhanov, or the "Party Bolsheviks" \*\* publishes any journals as the Party organs of any organisation in Russia

It is very easy to refer to groups which do not exist in reality Nor is it difficult to print correspondence expressing "sympathy" But in order to conduct even for half a year, an organ of an organisation working in Russia, it is necessary to have regular contacts, as well as the complete confidence of the masses of workers in the districts, unity of views on tactics—all of which can come

<sup>1</sup> Ukrainian for league or union—Ed Eng ed

only as a result of joint work over a long period. The grouplets abroad which are being mobilised against the Party by the Lettish and Bundist disrupters lack all this.

As regards the PPS<sup>1</sup> we shall say briefly it is *not a Social Democratic* organisation. It never formed part of the Social Democratic Labour Party. There is only one reason for inviting it, namely, it "promises" to become Social Democratic and join the liquidators.<sup>1</sup> For the disrupters and lovers of splits, this, of course is quite an adequate reason.<sup>1</sup> If we are to invite the Polish Socialist Party to take part in joint deliberations, why not also invite the Socialist Revolutionaries who take part in the elections to the Duma, the Zionist Socialists, the Lettish League of Socialist Revolutionaries, and similar "tendencies"?

#### THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC FRACTION IN THE THIRD DUMA

Among the organisational centres the Executive Committee has included the grouplets abroad, while on the other hand *it did not invite the Social Democratic fraction in the Duma*. It is incredible, yet it is a fact. It will be useful for the Russian workers to know how Trotsky and Co. are misleading our foreign comrades.

In their letter to the Executive Committee of June 24 [11], the Letts write

"As regards the Social Democratic Duma fraction, there can be no suggestion of it acting as a mediator in the question of material assistance for the election campaign because the Duma session is drawing to a close and, simultaneously, the Duma fraction thereby loses its mandate" (P. 2 of the frequently quoted letter).

This is either a piece of deliberate deception or boundless political ignorance, which clearly enough indicates to what extent the Letts in Brussels are informed about the elections in Russia.

The letter is dated June 24 [11]. On June 22 [9], the Third Duma was officially dissolved for an indefinite period, but all the deputies, including also the Social Democrats, retained their mandates. The latter *are even now Duma deputies*—this is known to every worker in Russia who is not illiterate. But this is unknown to the slanderers of the Party abroad.

The only legally existing Social Democrats in Russia who, no

<sup>1</sup> The Polish Socialist Party—*Ed*

matter in what part of the country they may be, form the only official organisation, are precisely the members of the Social Democratic fraction of the Third Duma

All the liquidators hate this fraction. The leaflets of the liquidators (*Nasha Zarya*) heap abuse and insinuations upon it, all the disruptors abroad spread gossip about it. And why? Because the majority of the fraction, in which the Party Mensheviks were always predominant, always determinedly fought the liquidators and helped to render them quite harmless in St. Petersburg.

In the pamphlet *The Anonymous Writer, etc.*, we published an important fact. No one could say a word to refute it. Only two members of the fraction regularly contribute to the liquidationist newspapers. Eight members of the fraction regularly contribute to the anti liquidationist newspapers.\*

Both the Letts and Trotsky propose that the Executive Committee exclude from the conference this, the only All Russian body which has preserved unity! Even if the Letts had erred, and on June 24 [11] were ignorant of what was known to all the workers in Russia, why did they themselves not take the trouble prior to July 22 [9]—i.e., after the expiration of a whole month—to correct their error? Some mistakes are very useful to those who make them.

The intention of the Letts and the liquidators who deceived the Executive Committee is, by means of a *bloc* of fictitious grouplets abroad, to foist liquidationist candidates on us and to obtain money by fraud from the German workers, in spite of the majority of the Party in Russia, in spite of the majority of the Social Democratic fraction in the Duma. Such is the gist of the long speeches (of the Letts, Bundists, Trotsky and Co.)

But this deception will not go unpunished.

#### OFFICIALLY VERIFIABLE DATA ON THE INFLUENCE OF THE LIQUIDATORS COMPARED WITH THAT OF THE PARTY

Every sensible person understands that the empty phrases concerning the mythical secret "organisations" alleged to be in sympathy with the liquidators do not deserve any credence. We assert that all the organisations of the liquidators in Russia—are fictitious.

It is difficult for those who have no information on the state of affairs in Russian Social Democratic circles to get at the truth. But even they can get at the truth if they search the documents, test their meaning and take nothing on trust. We have already quoted the first commonly known fact, which is open to verification, *viz*, the division of forces in the Social Democratic fraction in the Duma between the liquidators and anti liquidators.

But now, after half a year's struggle between the liquidators and the Party, other entirely objective and still more convincing facts are available.

In the letter of June 24 [11] (pp 5 and 6), the Letts mentioned the legal Marxian papers in St Petersburg. They name *Zhivoye Dyelo*<sup>1</sup> and *Novsky Golos*<sup>2</sup> which conduct propaganda on behalf of a Menshevik tendency (that of *Golos Sotsial Demokrata*) and contrast them with the newspapers *Zvezda*<sup>3</sup> and the St Petersburg *Pravda* (not to be confused with Trotsky's liquidationist Vienna *Pravda*), which, according to the assertion of the Letts, are "owned and conducted by the Lenin group."

Even though this assertion is inept, the Letts have involuntarily adduced a serious fact against the liquidators.

While the term "open party" is only an empty, liberal phrase of the liquidators, open activity in the Duma and in the press is the principal activity of Marxian propaganda. It is here, and only here, that it is possible to discover facts which objectively show the relative strength of the liquidators and of the anti liquidators.

There are no other political All Russian organs except those named by the Letts. The liquidators have *Zhivoye Dyelo* and *Novsky Golos*, the anti liquidators, *Zvezda* (recently named *Novskaya Zvezda*) and the St Petersburg *Pravda*. There are no other tendencies and factions in Russia either in the press or in the public mass arena, all the groups abroad named by the Letts are mere ciphers.

We now have the results of the half year's activity of both tendencies.

During this half year (January-June 1912) all the Russian par-

<sup>1</sup> *Living Cause*—Ed Eng ed

<sup>2</sup> *Neva Voice*—Ed Eng ed

<sup>3</sup> *The Star*—Ed Eng ed

ties started, and have already completed, their preparations for the elections. Only six or eight weeks now remain until the elections. Most of the electoral lists have been drawn up. In fact, the outcome of the elections is already predetermined precisely by this half year's preparation.

"Points" 17 in the list of the Letts declared themselves for the liquidators (the Organisation Committee, the Bund, Lettish Social Democracy, *Golos*, the Vienna *Pravda*, the Caucasian Regional Committee, *Vperyod*). The anti liquidators were supported by the Central Committee which unites the Russian organisations, i.e., those functioning in Russia (only the "Leninist tendency" as the liquidators assert).

Let us see what both tendencies have done.

From January 14 [1] to July 13 [June 30], 1912, the liquidators published in St Petersburg sixteen issues of the newspaper *Zhivoye Dyelo* and five issues of the newspaper *Nevsky Golos*—twenty one issues in all.

During the same six months the anti liquidators published thirty three issues of the newspaper *Zvezda*, fourteen issues of the newspaper *Nevskaya Zvezda* and fifty three issues of the newspaper *Pravda*—in all a hundred issues.

Twenty one against one hundred!

Such is the correlation of forces between the liquidators and the Party in Russia. The data concerning the newspapers are open data, anyone can check and substantiate them.

How do matters stand with the circulation of the newspapers? The Letts assert that the liquidators have issued 30,000 copies. Let us assume that this is not exaggerated. A person who saw Comrade Haase and other members mentioned to the Executive Committee the figure of 60,000 copies as the circulation of the anti liquidationist newspapers. This correlation reduces the influence of the liquidators, as compared with that of the Party, to 1/10.

Even though information concerning the circulation has not been published and therefore may appear exaggerated, other data have been published which are more important and more convincing.

This is the information concerning the connection of the liquidators and of the Party with the masses of the workers in Russia.

OPEN VERIFIABLE DATA CONCERNING THE CONNECTIONS OF  
THE LIQUIDATORS AND OF THE PARTY WITH THE MASSES  
OF THE WORKERS IN RUSSIA

The data concerning the number of issues of newspapers published and their circulation do not yet fully prove the ascendancy of the Party over the liquidators. Even grouplets of liberal intellectuals can publish newspapers. Any newspaper which is "friendly to the workers" or even a liberal newspaper of a radical shade will always find many readers in Russia. Apart from the workers, it will be read by the liberals and also by the petty bourgeois democrats.

Facts are available, however, which much more simply and clearly reveal the connections of the liquidators and of the Party with the masses of the workers in Russia.

These are the data on the funds collected for the purpose of publishing workers' publications.

Agitation has been carried on for a long time among the workers in Russia for collections to enable the publication of a workers' newspaper. It was obvious to all that without such a newspaper, participation in the elections would almost be a fiction. A newspaper is the principal weapon in an election campaign, the principal means for Marxian agitation among the masses.

But where is the money for the newspaper to come from?

It is necessary to organise collections among the workers. These collections form a fund and show the strength of the connections of this or that group. They are an indication of the authority of the groups, the confidence placed in them by the workers, their real influence over the proletarian masses.

Such collections for a workers' newspaper were started in St. Petersburg at the beginning of 1912. Six months—from January 14 [1] to July 13 [June 30]—is an adequate period. The data concerning the collections are published in all the above-named newspapers, both liquidationist and anti-liquidationist.

The conclusions drawn from these data covering half a year serve as the best material—an open, complete, objective, final answer to the question of the correlation of the forces of the

liquidators and of the Party in Russia. Therefore, in the appendix we have given a full translation of all the accounts of money collections for a daily workers' newspaper taken from nearly all the above-mentioned newspapers for that half year.

Here we quote only the totals.

During the half year, the anti-liquidationist newspapers published accounts concerning 504 money collections among groups of workers, *i.e.*, collections regarding which the groups of workers which made the collections are actually named. These collections were made in fifty Russian cities and factory settlements.

During the same half year—from January 14 [1] to July 13 [June 30], 1912—the liquidationist newspapers published accounts of fifteen money collections among groups of workers. These collections were made in five Russian cities.<sup>1</sup>

Here are the precise accounts.

COLLECTIONS BY WORKERS' GROUPS FOR A WORKERS' DAILY FROM  
JANUARY 14 [1] TO JULY 13 [JUNE 30], 1912:

	<i>In liquidationist newspapers</i>	<i>In anti-liquidationist newspapers</i>
January	0	14
February	0	18
March	7	76
April	8	227
May	0	135
June	0	34
	<hr/> 15	<hr/> 504

DITTO THE PRINCIPAL DISTRICTS OF RUSSIA

St. Petersburg	10	415
South Russia	1	51
Moscow	2	13
North and West Russia	1	12
The Urals and Volga	0	6
Caucasus, Siberia, Finland	1	7
	<hr/> 15	<hr/> 504

<sup>1</sup>In spite of the gossip spread by the liquidators, it was precisely these collections, amounting to over 12,000 marks, together with the help previously rendered by the German comrades, that formed the basic fund of our Social Democratic press in Russia. The full translation, mentioned in the text, of all the accounts of money collections published by the various Social Democratic newspapers in the course of half a year was sent to the Executive Committee, the Auditing Committee and to Bebel.



After a half year's struggle against the Party, the liquidators were utterly routed

The liquidators do not count at all in the Russian Social Democratic labour movement. This is proved by the above quoted data, which anyone can verify. Such are the facts published in Russia for a whole half year, notwithstanding the bragging of Trotsky and the liquidators.

It should be noted that Trotsky is a contributor to *Zhivoye Dyelo*. Furthermore, the Letts themselves, in the letter of June 24 [11], admit that all six groups, including Trotsky, the Menshevik *Golos*, the leader of the newspapers *Zhivoye Dyelo* and *Nevsky Golos*, form the so called Organisation Committee. Therefore, our data prove that it is not only the liquidators, but all their friends abroad who give themselves such airs, who are of no account in the Social Democratic labour movement in Russia.

On the average only one group of workers in Russia out of thirteen sides with them.

We quote here also the addresses and the dates of publication of all the Social Democratic newspapers in St. Petersburg.

#### LIQUIDATIONIST

- 1 *Zhivoye Dyelo* [*Living Cause*] St. Petersburg, Bolshaya Moskovskaya, 16 No. 1—February 2 [January 20], 1912, No. 16 and last issue—May 11 [April 28], 1912 (suppressed)
- 2 *Nevsky Golos* [*Neva Voice*] St. Petersburg, Kolokolnaya, 3 No. 1—June 2 [May 20], 1912; No. 5—July 11 [June 28], 1912 (Still exists at the present time—August 11 [July 29], 1912)

#### ANTI LIQUIDATIONIST

- 3 *Zvezda* [*Star*] St. Petersburg, Razyezhaya, 10, Apt. 14 No. 1 (37)—January 19 [6], 1912, No. 33 (69)—May 5 [April 22], 1912 (suppressed)
- 4 *Nevskaya Zvezda* [*Neva Star*] St. Petersburg, Nikolayevskaya, 33, Apt. 57 No. 1—March 10 [February 26], 1912, No. 2—May 16 [3], 1912, No. 14—July 7 [June 24], 1912 (still exists)
- 5 *Prauda* [*Truth*] St. Petersburg, Nikolayevskaya, 37, Apt. 18 No. 1—May 5 [April 22], 1912, No. 53—July 13 [June 30], 1912 (still exists)

#### CONCLUSION

The candidates of the Russian Social Democratic Labour Party in the forthcoming Duma elections will be nominated by the local Party organisations without distinction of views and tendencies.

The minority of the Social Democratic workers will everywhere have to submit to the majority

All the noise about double candidatures is simply nonsense which only serves the purpose of frightening foreign comrades and of extracting money

All that is needed to complete the picture is for the notorious ten "tendencies" to threaten to put up *ten* candidates and beg for money abroad for each of the candidates

There will be no double candidatures The liquidators are so weak that they are quite unable to put forward second candidates We do not negotiate with a handful of liquidators who have betrayed the Party Neither the Central Committee in Russia nor the local organisations take the liquidators seriously Note, for example, the latest events in St Petersburg The liquidators stated in the newspaper *Nevsky Golos* (No 6), that joint conferences were held with them (the liquidators) in St Petersburg to discuss the conducting of the election campaign Both *Nevskaya Zvezda* (No 16) and *Pravda* (No 61) of July 21 [8] and 23 [10] announced that they had not sent any representatives to the conference, moreover, one participant in the conference announced in *Nevskaya Zvezda* that the workers all over Russia would carry out the decisions of the January Conference of the Russian Social Democratic Labour Party

"The unity of the various tendencies," he declared, referring to the liquidators, "is altogether impossible in the Social Democratic election campaign" (*Nevskaya Zvezda*, No 16, July 21 [8], 1912)

No financial assistance in the world will win the sympathies of the Russian workers for the liquidators But it goes without saying that it is possible to set up fictitious second candidatures in various places with the money supplied by the Executive Committee In that event the responsibility for such candidatures, which will in fact be candidatures of the German Executive Committee, will rest on the Executive Committee *The money handed out to the liquidators who have no daily newspaper will help them to found a competing organ This money will be used to organise a split by those who, throughout the many years of struggle, have shown that they are nonentities, the money will be used for journeys, etc, in*

*order to found a new party* If the Executive Committee wants to assist the liquidators in one way or another, then, in spite of all our respect for the fraternal German Party, we shall be obliged to appeal to the International Then we shall *prove* to the Vienna International Congress \* by *documents* that the Executive Committee has expressed its readiness, by means of monetary support, to help bring about a split in our Party, to set up double candidatures and to galvanise that corpse—the defeated liquidators If the German comrades want to help the R S D L P, they must transfer the money, not to those who are organising a new party, but to the Central Committee of the old Party

#### THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE RUSSIAN SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC LABOUR PARTY

After the Executive Committee had cancelled the proposed conference it informed us that

"it is unable to give money to any of the Party groups in Russia for the election campaign until all of them jointly indicate to us" (the Executive Committee) the institution that enjoys universal confidence and is authorised to receive and distribute funds"

This pretended neutrality of the Executive Committee amounts in reality to a refusal to support the workers' party in Russia because of the calumny heaped upon it by the grouplets abroad and by the "conference" of the liquidators

Supplementing the remarks made above we regard it as our duty to add the following

The Russian newspapers legally existing and conducted in a Marxian spirit are at the present time the most important, open organ of the masses of the Russian Social Democratic workers in connection with the agitational work of the Party

The newspapers appearing abroad which are illegal in Russia cannot, *in essence*, claim to possess the same importance as those mentioned above, although their importance *in principle* as a means for theoretically explaining the movement is extremely great It is well known how easily, and sometimes thoughtlessly, such newspapers are founded by grouplets of Russian emigrants scattered abroad, these newspapers drag on a miserable existence amidst the same groups, and hardly ever reach the Russian mem

bers of the Party. Therefore they cannot really be regarded as having any perceptible influence over Party life in Russia.

After half a year's struggle of the anti liquidationist newspapers (from January to June 1912) there is now *only one* organ of the liquidators—*Novsky Golos*. This newspaper has almost ceased to exist as a political organ. In the course of a month and a half (from June to the middle of August) only two numbers were published (Nos. 6 and 7). It is obvious that unless a newspaper of this kind draws its vital forces from close contact with the masses of the workers, it cannot withstand the police persecution that is raging in Russia against *all* the labour and even against many quite moderate liberal newspapers.

The labour newspapers which carry great political weight and are of immediate and urgent importance are now the weekly *Novskaya Zvezda* and the daily newspaper, *Pravda*. Both newspapers appear in St. Petersburg, our *political opponents* among the Lettish Social Democrats have contemptuously dubbed them the organs of the "Lenin group." From the objective data adduced above which are always open for verification, it must be obvious to our German comrades that this "Lenin group" embraces, in fact, the overwhelming majority of the Russian Social Democratic workers.

Hence, it is quite understandable why all the information emanating from the liquidators, and from groups and grouplets in sympathy with them, *do not deserve the least confidence*. All the rumours spread by these grouplets, together with the Jewish (Bund) and Lettish Social Democrats, who have absolutely no immediate contact with the *Russian* movement, about an alleged general conference, called or about to be called, representing all "tendencies," turn out to be pure inventions. No such conference, even if it actually took place, would play *any serious part* in the struggle of the Russian proletariat. Therefore, in essence, if we may venture to use a strong word, what we have here is a fraud.

In order to make the undoubtedly important political facts bearing on this question still clearer to our German Party comrades, we shall quote in conclusion a few extracts from an article by Axelrod, one of the liquidationist leaders, which appeared in the last issue of the monthly, *Nasha Zarya*.

Axelrod writes

The idea of a 'non factional' Social Democratic organ is at present a utopia and moreover a utopia that runs counter to the interests of the political development of the Party. We may say that we have no factions in an organisationally completed form; instead, we have various circles and grouplets of which some hold more or less definite political, tactical and organisational views, whereas others vacillate in various directions, hampering the former. The crucial point and chief source of internal Party discord is, on the one hand, the differences in the attitude of the various Party circles to the new, open Social Democratic and labour movement and on the other hand, the essential differences in the domain of the immediate political tasks and the political tactics of Russian Social Democracy. The questions of both categories become just now especially urgent questions of the day. It is on these questions that Russian Social Democracy is split into two principal camps. The question is whether the labour organ" (proposed by certain workers in St Petersburg and by many intellectuals abroad) "will be able to take up a neutral position between these two opposite camps and whether such a position is admissible on principle. Obviously, it is not. To talk about 'non factionalism' as the only panacea, when such conditions prevail in the Party, means deceiving oneself and others as to the real state of affairs in Social Democracy. Factional organisation and consolidation are the prime duty and the urgent tasks of the partisans of Party reform, or rather, of the revolution" (in the Party).<sup>1</sup>

In the last words, Axelrod obviously refers to the liquidators. We can only advise our German Party comrades, when they hear from various quarters about "non factionalism," or about a non factional conference with the participation of the liquidators, to demand, for the purpose of clearer orientation, a full translation of Axelrod's above quoted article for the German Social Democratic press. Then it will be possible to form a correct idea about certain fables.

THE EDITORIAL BOARD OF THE CENTRAL ORGAN  
OF THE RUSSIAN SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC LABOUR PARTY  
"SOTSIAL DEMOKRAT"

August [July] 1912

<sup>1</sup> The words we have put in parentheses were inserted by Lenin in Axelrod's article. In the German text, however, these words were not put in parentheses.—Ed

## THE PLATFORM OF THE REFORMISTS AND THE PLATFORM OF THE REVOLUTIONARY SOCIAL DEMOCRATS\*

THE revolutionary revival in Russia made itself clearly felt in the first half of 1912. The number of political strikers, as calculated by the employers, reached 515,000 for five months. A specially important document reprinted in full in the central organ, No. 27, namely, the May Day manifesto of the St. Petersburg workers,<sup>1</sup> testifies to the nature of the slogans of the strikers, of their demands, of the political content of their demonstrations, meetings, etc.

The St. Petersburg workers came out on those memorable days not with reformist slogans, but with the slogans of revolutionary Social Democracy: a constituent assembly, an eight hour day, confiscation of the landlords' estates, the overthrow of the tsarist government, a democratic republic.

The mutinies and attempted mutinies of soldiers and sailors in Turkestan, in the Baltic Fleet and on the Black Sea\*\* supplied a fresh *objective* confirmation of the fact that, after long years of reckless counter revolution and of a lull in the labour movement, a new revolutionary revival had begun.

This revival coincided with the elections to the Fourth State Duma, in which all parties, all political tendencies *had* to present, in one form or another, their *general* appraisal of the political situation. Now if we want to analyse our political tasks seriously, not as the pious wishes of the grouplets, but as the tasks of the working class, if we want to examine the programmes and platforms in a Marxian way, to compare them with the facts of the mass struggle and with the actions of *all* the classes of the given society, we must also test the various electoral programmes on the touchstone of *this revolutionary revival* of the masses. Because,

<sup>1</sup> See note to page 157 \*\*—Ed. Eng. ed.

for Social Democracy, elections are not a special political operation, not a means for catching votes by making all sorts of promises and declarations, they merely serve as a special occasion for agitating for the basic demands and for the principles of the political world outlook of the class conscious proletariat

There can be no doubt about the programmes and platforms of all the government parties, from the Black Hundreds down to Guchkov. They express plain and open counter revolution. That these parties lack the serious support not only of the working class and the peasants, but *even* of the broad strata of the bourgeoisie, is common knowledge. These latter strata have almost entirely turned away from the Octobrists.

The programmes and platforms of the liberal bourgeois parties have been published in part almost officially (the platform of the Moslem group<sup>1</sup>) and are partly known quite accurately through the "big" political press (the platforms of the "progressives" and of the Cadets). The *essence* of all these programmes and platforms has been inimitably expressed in the declarations of the garrulous Cadet, Gredeskul, which were reprinted in *Rech* whence they found their way into the Marxian press.

"A public *denial* of the need for a new revolution in Russia"—that is how Gredeskul himself formulated his views (See *Sotsial Demokrat*, No. 27, p. 3). It was he, also, who opposed to the revolutionaries the *real* platform of liberalism (with the Cadets at its head). "What is required is *only* quiet, persistent, confident *constitutional* work."

We stress the words "real platform," for in Russia, as in all bourgeois countries, most platforms are mere *window dressing*.

The essence of the matter is what was admitted (in a rare fit of truthfulness) by Mr. Gredeskul. The liberal monarchist bourgeoisie is *opposed* to a new revolution and upholds *only* constitutional reforms.

Social Democracy, consistently, and bourgeois democracy (the Narodniki), with vacillations, uphold the "need for" a new revolution, for carrying on propaganda in favour of such a revolution.

<sup>1</sup> The Moslem group in the Duma.—*Ed. Eng. ed.*

The revival of the *mass struggle has begun* The revolutionary Social Democrats try to extend and consolidate it and help it to develop to a still higher plane, to the stage of *revolution*. The reformists, however, consider the revival to be mere "animation", their policy is a policy directed towards obtaining constitutional concessions, constitutional reforms The bourgeoisie and proletariat have, therefore, also at this "stage" of Russian history, entered into a struggle for influence over the "people," over the masses No one can foretell the outcome of this struggle, yet no one can entertain any doubts as to the position which the Russian Social Democratic Labour Party must occupy in *this* struggle

Thus, and thus only, can we approach the task of estimating the election platform of the *Party*—and the platform issued the other day by the "Organisation Committee" that was elected by the liquidationist conference \*

The election platform of the Party, published by the Central Committee after the January conference, was drafted *before* the events of April and May These events *confirmed* its correctness There is one idea that runs through the whole platform the criticism of the hopelessness, the utopianism of constitutional reforms in *present day* Russia, and the propaganda of revolution The slogans of the platform have been framed *precisely* in such a way as to express the revolutionary tasks with perfect clarity and to make it absolutely impossible to mistake them for promises of constitutional reforms The platform of the Party represents a direct *appeal* of a revolutionary Social Democrat to *hundreds of thousands* of political strikers, to those who are in the front ranks of the vast peasant army, to whom the tasks of the uprising are *explained* A revolutionary party cannot even dream of a better test for its platform, of a better confirmation of it by life itself than this direct response to the explanations of the Party—the May strikes and the attempted mutinies in June and July

Look at the platform of the liquidators Its liquidationist essence is artfully concealed by Trotsky's revolutionary phrases This camouflage may sometimes blind naive and altogether inexperienced people, and may even appear to be "reconciliation" be-



tween the liquidators and the Party But the most cursory examination will rapidly dissipate this self-deception

The platform of the liquidators was written *after* the May strikes and the attempts at an uprising in the summer And in trying to discover a concrete practical answer to the question of the essence of this platform, the first thing we ask is *how* does it appraise those strikes and those attempts?

"The economic revival " " by the growth of its strike movement, the proletariat has signaled the impending new social revival " " the powerful April movement of the proletariat demanding the right of *association*"—that is *all* the liquidators' platform says about the April and May strikes

But this is untrue! It is a crying distortion of the facts! The *principal* thing has been omitted—the *revolutionary* character of the political strike which was directed towards the *overthrow* of the government, *i e*, towards revolution, and *not* towards the attainment of a constitutional reform

How could such an untruth be written in an illegal, revolutionary manifesto which is full of "Red" phrases? It *had to be*, because *such* is the *view* of the liberals and of the liquidators They see the strikes as they wish them to be—a struggle for constitutional reforms They do not see what they do not wish to see, namely, the revolutionary upsurge We liberals want to fight for reform, but not for revolution—such is the *truth* of the class position that found expression in the *untruth* of the liquidators

In regard to the attempted uprisings we read " the soldiers in the barracks are driven by violence, humiliation and starvation to *outbursts of desperate protest*, then they are suppressed with bullets, the rope," etc

This is a liberal appraisal We revolutionary Social Democrats regard the attempts at uprising as the *beginning of the uprising of the masses*, as an unsuccessful, untimely, incorrect beginning, but we know that the *masses learn* how to rise successfully only from the experience of unsuccessful uprisings, just as the Russian workers, by a series of unsuccessful and sometimes particularly unsuccessful political strikes in 1901-04 learned to organise the successful strike of October 1905 We say the workers and

peasants who are most stupefied by the barracks *have begun* to rebel Hence the plain and obvious conclusion it must be *explained* to them for what purpose and how they should prepare a *successful* uprising

The liberals judge otherwise The soldiers are "driven" to "outbursts of *desperate* protest," they say For a liberal, a soldier who mutinies is not the subject of the revolution, not the first herald of the rebellious masses, but an *object* of governmental evil ("driven to desperation"), who serves the purpose of demonstrating that evil

See how bad our government is it *drives* the soldiers to *desperation* and then suppresses them with bullets—says the liberal (the conclusion being now, if we liberals were in power we would not have soldiers' mutinies)

See how revolutionary energy is maturing among the broad masses—says the Social Democrat—even the soldiers and sailors who are stupefied by barracks drill are beginning to rise, and, rising badly, they teach how to make a successful uprising

As you see, the liquidators "have interpreted" (in the senatorial sense of the word interpret\*) the revolutionary revival in Russia during the spring and the summer

Thereupon they "interpreted" the programme of our Party

The programme of the Russian Social Democratic Labour Party states

"The Russian Social Democratic Labour Party sets itself the *immediate* political task of overthrowing the tsarist autocracy and substituting for it a democratic republic, whose constitution *would ensure* 1) the sovereignty of the people," etc, then follows the list of "liberties" and "rights"

One would think that this could not be misunderstood, the "immediate" task is the overthrow of the autocracy and its substitution by a republic, which would *ensure* the liberties

The liquidators have altered all this

In their platform we read

"Social Democracy calls on the people to fight for a democratic republic "  
 " Striving for this object, which the people will be able to *achieve only as a result of the revolution*, Social Democracy in the *present election campaign* 'calls on the toiling masses to rally to the fol

lowing *immediate* demands 1) universal, etc, suffrage *for the elections to the State Duma,* etc

The Socialist Revolutionary liquidator, Mr Peshekhonov, wrote in the autumn of 1906, when he was forming an "open party" (and almost succeeded but the police interfered and clapped the lot into jail), that the republic is a "*very remote prospect*," that "the question of a republic demands extreme caution," that the *immediate* demands now are reforms

But the Socialist Revolutionary liquidator was naive, simple, clumsy and blunt Do the "European" opportunists speak in this way? No They are more cunning, cleverer, more diplomatic

They do not renounce the slogan of a republic—what a libel! They only "interpret it" in due fashion, guided by considerations obvious to every man in the street The man in the street states simply—well, it is a moot point whether there will be a revolution or not, and Trotsky repeats the same in a scholarly fashion in *Nasha Zarya* (No 5, p 21) Republic "*only as a result of revolution*," but what is "*immediate*" "in the present election campaign" is constitutional reforms!

Everything came out so smoothly the republic is both recognised and relegated to the distant future Heaps and heaps of r r revolutionary words, but in effect "in the present election campaign" (the whole of the platform is written exclusively for this *present campaign*!) the demands for reforms are put forward as "*immediate*"

Yes, yes, great "masters of diplomacy" deliberated at the liquidationist conference And what miserable masters! But although the latter may delight the narrow circle diplomatists, although they may mislead the "simpleton conciliators," the Marxists will talk to them in a different strain

The man in the street is satisfied with that undoubted, holy and hollow truth that it is impossible to know beforehand whether a revolution will take place or not A Marxist is not satisfied with this, he says our propaganda and the propaganda of all the Social Democratic workers is *one of the factors* which will determine whether the revolution will take place or not Hundreds of thousands of political strikers, the foremost men of various

army units ask us, our Party, for what they should strive, for what cause they should rebel, what they should insist upon, whether they should extend the incipient upsurge to a revolution, or whether they should direct it towards a struggle for reforms

Revolutionary Social Democracy has given its answer to these questions, and these answers are more interesting and important than the philistine Trotsky "nose picking" contemplations will there be a revolution or not, who knows?

Our answer is—criticism of the utopia of constitutional reforms, explanation of the falsity of hopes placed in them, all possible assistance to the *revolutionary* upsurge, utilisation of the election campaign *for that purpose* Whether there will be a revolution or not *does not* depend on us *alone* But we shall do *our* work and this work will never perish It will sow the seeds of democracy and of proletarian independence deep among the masses and these seeds are *bound* to shoot up either as a democratic revolution tomorrow, or as a socialist revolution the day after

On the other hand, those who preach to the *masses* their vulgar, intellectual, Bundist Trotskyist scepticism "We don't know whether a revolution will take place or not, but what is '*immediate*' is reforms," are *already* corrupting the masses, preaching liberal utopias to the masses

Instead of *permeating* the election campaign with the spirit of the given, real, "*present*" political situation, when half a million workers are engaged in revolutionary strikes when the foremost men in the peasant army are shooting their aristocratic officers—instead of this they *delete* from their quasi "European" (Oh! What Europeans, what thorough Europeans these liquidators are!), "parliamentary" considerations this real situation (in which there is very little that is "European," but quite a lot that is "Chinese," i.e., democratic revolutionary), and, dismissing it by means of a few non committal phrases, they declare the reformist election campaign to be the *real* thing

The Social Democratic Party needs a platform for the elections to the Fourth Duma in order once more to explain to the masses, *in connection* with the elections, *and* on the occasion of these elections *as well as* in controversies concerning the elections, *the*

*need for, the urgency, the inevitability of the revolution*

They, the liquidators, need a platform "*for*" the elections, *i.e.*, in order politely to push back the consideration of a revolution as an indefinite contingency and to declare as "real" the election campaign for a list of constitutional reforms

The Social Democratic Party wishes to utilise the elections in order, over and over again, to *stimulate* the masses to see the need for revolution, to see precisely the revolutionary revival which has begun. Therefore, the Social Democratic Party, in its platform, says briefly and plainly to the electors *to the Fourth Duma not* constitutional reforms, but a republic, *not* reformism, but revolution

The liquidators are using the elections to the Fourth Duma in order to preach constitutional reforms and to *weaken* the idea of revolution. *For this purpose*, therefore, soldiers' mutinies are depicted as "outbursts of desperate protest," to which soldiers are "driven," and not as the *beginning* of a mass uprising which will grow or subside, according to whether or not, among other things, *all* the Social Democratic workers of Russia at once begin to support it with all their might, with all their energy, with all their enthusiasm

For this purpose the revolutionary May strikes have been "interpreted" as reformist.

For this purpose the Party programme has been "interpreted," and instead of the "immediate" task of creating a republic that will *ensure* liberties, it has been decreed to regard as *immediate* in the "present election campaign"—for the Fourth State Duma, don't laugh—the demand for various liberties

What a lot of the old China there is in Russian life! What a lot of the old China there is in our tearism and also in our liquidators, who wish to put the "ceremonies" of parliamentary struggle and reformism in a setting with the Purishkeviches and Treshchenkos<sup>1</sup> on top and the revolutionary attempts of the masses below! What a lot of the old China there is in these vain efforts of the intellectuals to defend themselves against the Khvostovs and Maka

<sup>1</sup> The chief of gendarmes in the Lena gold fields who ordered the shooting of the workers during the great strike in 1912—*Ed Eng ed*

rovs by producing a letter of recommendation from MacDonald and Jaurès, from Bissolati and Bernstein, from Kolb and Frankl

The diplomatic "reconciliation" of liquidationist views with Party views that was staged by Trotsky at the liquidationist conference does not really "reconcile" anything \* It does not obviate that greatest political fact, which determines the entire social and political situation of present day Russia That fact is the struggle between the reformist and the revolutionary Social Democratic platforms, it is the pronouncement of the bourgeoisie, represented by its liberal party leaders, against the need for a new revolution in Russia and in favour of purely constitutional "work" to counterbalance the revolutionary strike of hundreds of thousands of proletarians, which is a call to the masses to commence a genuine struggle for freedom

A bow to the reformists and another to revolutionary Social Democracy do not remove this objective political fact, do not weaken its force and weight in the slightest degree The good intentions to smooth away the differences created by this fact—even if we assume these intentions to be indeed fully "well meant" and sincere—are powerless to alter the irreconcilably hostile political tendencies which have sprung up from the situation created by counter revolution

The proletariat has risen with its revolutionary Social Democratic banner, and on the eve of the Fourth, Black Duma, it will not lower it before the liberals, it will not furl it to please the reformists, it will not consent to modify or tone down its platform for considerations of group diplomacy

The platform of revolutionary Social Democracy versus the platform of reformism—it was under this sign that the May strikes took place The Russian Social Democratic Labour Party is entering the elections to the Duma of the landlords and the priests under the same sign, and, under it, the entire work of the Party in that Duma and among the broad masses of the people will proceed

November 1912

## VIOLATION OF UNITY UNDER COVER OF CRIES FOR UNITY\*

THE questions of the contemporary labour movement are in many respects vexed questions, especially for the representatives of the movement of yesterday, i.e., of the historical stage that has just passed. This refers above all to the questions of the so called factionalism, split, etc. We frequently hear the intellectual participants in the labour movement making excited, nervous, almost hysterical requests not to touch these painful questions. For those who went through the long years of struggle of the various tendencies among the Marxists, for example, from 1900 on onwards, many of the arguments about these painful questions may naturally be superfluous repetitions.

However, there are not many people left at the present time who participated in the fourteen years' struggle among the Marxists (still fewer who participated in the eighteen or nineteen years' struggle, if we reckon from the first symptoms of the appearance of "Economism"). The overwhelming majority of workers who at the present time fill the ranks of the Marxists either do not remember the old struggle, or are altogether ignorant of it. For this overwhelming majority (as is incidentally shown by the questionnaire conducted by our magazine\*\*) these painful questions are of especially great interest, and we propose to deal with these questions, which have been raised *as if* they were new (and they are really new to the young generation of the workers) by Trotsky's "non factional workers' magazine" *Borba*.

### I ON "FACTIONALISM"

Trotsky calls his new magazine "non factional." He puts this word in the forefront in his advertisements, he stresses it in every

way in the editorials of *Borba*, and of the liquidationist *Severnaya Rabochaya Gazeta*,<sup>1</sup> in which an article by Trotsky was published on *Borba* before the latter appeared

What, then, is "non factionalism"?

Trotsky's "workers' magazine" is Trotsky's magazine for the workers, for it bears no trace either of workers' initiative or of contact with the workers' organisations. Wishing to be popular, Trotsky in this magazine for the workers explains to the readers the meaning of the words "territory," "factor," etc.

That is all very well. But why not explain to the workers the meaning of the term "non factionalism" as well? Is this word really more intelligible than the terms territory and factor?

No, this is not the point. The point is that by this label of "non factionalism" the worst representatives of the worst remnants of factionalism *mislead* the young generation of workers. It is worth while pausing to explain this point.

Factionalism is the principal distinguishing feature of the Social Democratic Party in a definite historical period. Which period? The period from 1903 to 1911.

In order to explain most graphically what the essence of factionalism was, it is necessary to recall the concrete conditions of, say, 1906-07. The Party was then united, there was no split, but there was factionalism, *i.e.*, in reality there were *two* factions in the single Party, two virtually separate organisations. The local workers' organisations were united, but on every serious question, the two factions framed two tactics, the advocates of the respective tactics disputed among themselves within the united workers' organisations (for example, in 1906, when discussing the slogan, a Duma—or Cadet—Cabinet, or during the elections to the London Congress of 1907); and questions were settled by a *majority*—one faction was defeated at the united Stockholm Congress (1906), the other—at the united London Congress (1907).

These are commonly known facts in the history of organised Marxism in Russia.

<sup>1</sup> *Northern Workers' Gazette*—Ed. Eng. ed.



It is sufficient to recall these commonly known facts to perceive the blatant untruth which Trotsky is disseminating

Since 1912, for more than two years, there has been *no* factionalism in Russia among the organised Marxists, no disputes on tactics in the *united* organisations, at the *united* conferences and congresses There is a *complete* break between the Party—which in January 1912 formally announced that the liquidators *do not* belong to it—and the liquidators Trotsky frequently calls this state of affairs a “split,” and further on we shall speak in particular of this qualification However, the undoubted fact remains that the word “factionalism” is a *misnomer*

This word, as we have already stated, is a repetition, a non critical, unreasonable, senseless repetition of *what was true yesterday*, *i.e.*, in a period that has already passed And when Trotsky talks to us about the “chaos of factional struggle” (see No 1, pp 5, 6 and many others), it at once becomes obvious *exactly which* dead past is speaking through his mouth

Look at the present state of affairs from the standpoint of a young Russian worker, and nine tenths of the organised Marxists of Russia are young workers He sees before him widespread manifestations of three different sets of views and tendencies of the labour movement The *Pravda* ists who are united around a newspaper with a circulation of 40,000 copies, the liquidators (15,000 copies), and the Left Narodniks<sup>1</sup> (10,000 copies) The circulation figures give the reader an idea of the extent to which a given doctrine bears a *mass* character

But why talk of “chaos”? Trotsky is fond of sonorous and empty phrases—this is known, but the catchword “chaos” is not only a phrase, *in addition* to that it is an attempt to transplant (or rather, it is a vain attempt to transplant) to Russian soil in the present epoch the *émigré* relationships of the epoch of yesterday That is the gist of the matter

There is no “chaos” in the struggle between the Marxists and the Narodniks Thus, we hope, *even* Trotsky will not venture to dispute The struggle between the Marxists and the Narodniks has been

<sup>1</sup> Socialist Revolutionaries—Ed

going on for over thirty years, since the very birth of Marxism. The cause of this struggle is the radical divergence of interests and points of view of two different classes—the proletariat and the peasantry. If there is “chaos” anywhere, it is in the heads of queer people who do not understand this.

What remains then? The “chaos” of the struggle between the Marxists and the liquidators? This again is untrue, for it is impossible to describe as chaos a struggle against a *tendency* which has been recognised by the entire Party as a tendency, and has been condemned since 1908. And those who are not unconcerned about the history of Marxism in Russia know that liquidationism is inseparably and most intimately connected with “Menshevism” (1903-08) and “Economism” (1894-1903), even as regards leaders and participants. Therefore, here too we have before us nearly twenty years of history. To treat the history of one’s own party as “chaos” means that one is suffering from unpardonable empty-headedness.

But look at the present position *from the point of view* of Paris, or Vienna. Everything changes instantaneously. *Apart from the Pravda*ists and the liquidators, there are *no fewer than five* Russian “factions,” i.e., separate groups, which claim to belong to the same Social Democratic Party: Trotsky’s group, the two *Vperyod* groups, the “Party Bolsheviks,” the “Party Mensheviks.”\* In Paris and Vienna (as an example I take two particularly large centres) this is well known to all Marxists.

And here Trotsky is to a certain extent correct! This is real factionalism, this is real chaos!

“Factionalism,” i.e., nominal unity (*in words* all belong to the same Party), but real dismemberment (*in reality* all the groups are independent of each other, and enter into negotiations and agreements with each other, just like sovereign powers).

“Chaos,” i.e., the absence of 1) objective, verifiable data concerning the connections of these factions with the labour movement in Russia, and the absence of 2) material necessary for judging the real ideological and political character of these factions. Take the period of two whole years—1912 and 1913. As is known, they were the years of revival and upsurge of the labour

movement, when everything that in any way resembled a *mass* tendency or trend (and in politics it is only masses that count) *could not but* influence the elections to the Fourth Duma, the strike movement, the legal newspapers, the trade unions, the insurance campaign, etc. During the whole of these two years not one, not a single one of those five factions abroad made the slightest impression *on any* of the manifestations of the mass labour movement in Russia just indicated.

This is a fact which anyone can easily verify.

And this fact proves that we were right in referring to Trotsky as the representative of the "worst remnants of factionalism."

Although Trotsky professes to be non factional, he is known to all who are in the slightest degree acquainted with the labour movement in Russia as the representative of "Trotsky's faction"—there is factionalism here, for both the essential characteristics of it are present: 1) the nominal recognition of unity, and 2) group segregation in reality. This is a remnant of factionalism, for it is impossible to discover in it anything serious in the way of contacts with the mass labour movement of Russia.

Finally, it is the worst kind of factionalism, for there is *nothing* ideologically and politically definite about it. It cannot be denied that the *Pravda*ists are definite (even our determined opponent, L. Martov, acknowledges our "unanimity and discipline" in regard to all the known formal decisions on all questions), and also the liquidators (they, or at least the most prominent of them, have a very definite political complexion, namely liberal and not Marxian).

It cannot be denied that sections of the factions which, like Trotsky's faction, really exist only from the Vienna Paris, and not at all from the Russian, point of view are definite. For instance, the Machist *Vperyod* group holds definitely *Machist* theories, the "Party Mensheviks" definitely and resolutely reject these theories and defend *Marxism*, and at the same time they theoretically condemn the liquidators.

But Trotsky completely lacks a definite ideology and policy, for having the patent for "non factionalism" only means (we shall deal with this in greater detail in a moment) having a patent

granting complete freedom to *flit* to and fro from one faction to another

To sum up

1) Trotsky does not explain and he himself does not understand the historical significance of the *ideological* differences among tendencies and factions in Marxism, although these differences fill the twenty years' history of Social Democracy and concern the basic questions of present day life (as we shall prove later on),

2) Trotsky has not understood the basic peculiarities of *factionalism*—nominal recognition of unity and virtual dismemberment,

3) Under the flag of "non factionalism" Trotsky is upholding one of the factions abroad which is particularly devoid of ideas and has no basis in the labour movement in Russia

Not all is gold that glitters Trotsky's phrases are full of glitter and noise, but they lack content

## II ON SCHISM

Some may say "If there is no factionalism, *i.e.*, nominal recognition of unity and dismemberment in reality, among you, *Pravda* ists, then there is something worse—schism" That is precisely what Trotsky says Unable to think out his ideas thoroughly and make his phrases tally, at one moment he cries out against factionalism and at another shouts "schism is making one suicidal conquest after another" (No 1, p 6)

This statement can have only one meaning, namely, "the *Pravda* ists are making one conquest after another" (this is an objective, verifiable fact that may be established by the study of the mass labour movement of Russia even in 1912 and 1913), *but I, Trotsky*, condemn the *Pravda* ists 1) as splitters and 2) as suicidal politicians

Let us consider all this

First of all, let us thank Trotsky Recently (between August 1912 and February 1914) he followed in the footsteps of F Dan, who, as is known, threatened and called for the "*killing*" of anti liquidationism Now Trotsky does not threaten to "kill" our ten-

dency (and our Party—don't get angry, citizen Trotsky, surely this is true!), he only prophesies that it will kill *itself*!

This is much milder, is it not? This is almost "non factional," is it not?

But jokes aside (although a joke is the only way of responding mildly to Trotsky's intolerable phrasemongering)

"Suicide" is merely a phrase, an empty phrase, it is just "Trotskyism"

Schism is a serious political accusation. This accusation is being repeated against us in thousands of ways both by the liquidators and by all those above-mentioned groups which from the standpoint of Paris and Vienna undoubtedly exist.

And they all repeat this serious political accusation in a remarkably unserious manner. Look at Trotsky. He admits that "schism" is making (read—the *Pravda*ists are making) one suicidal conquest after another. He adds to this:

*"Numerous advanced workers who are in a state of utter political perplexity themselves often become the active agents of schism"* (No 1, p. 6)

Is it possible to find examples of a more unserious attitude towards the question than the one which is revealed in these words?

You accuse us of schism, whereas we see in front of us, in the arena of the labour movement in Russia, absolutely nothing but liquidationism. Does that mean that you consider our attitude towards liquidationism to be incorrect? Indeed, *all* the groups abroad, enumerated above, however strongly they may differ from one another, agree that our attitude towards liquidationism is wrong and "schismatic." This also establishes a similarity (and a substantial political rapprochement) between *all* these groups and the liquidators.

If our attitude towards liquidationism is wrong in theory and principle, then Trotsky should have said *plainly*, should have declared *definitely*, should have indicated unequivocally wherein he found it to be wrong. Trotsky, however, has *for years* avoided that essential point.

If our attitude towards liquidationism is refuted in practice

by the experience of the movement, this experience should be analysed, and thus again Trotsky fails to do. He admits "Numerous advanced workers become *the active agents* of schism" (read—active agents of the *Pravda*-ist line, tactics, system, organisation)

Why is this regrettable development taking place, a development which as Trotsky confesses, is confirmed by experience that the *advanced* workers, and *numerous* workers at that, are supporting *Pravda*?

Trotsky answers—owing to the state of "utter political perplexity" of these advanced workers

This explanation is no doubt extremely flattering to Trotsky, to all the five factions abroad, and to the liquidators. Trotsky is very fond of explaining historical events "with the learned mien of an expert," in pompous and sonorous phrases, in a manner flattering to Trotsky. If "numerous advanced workers" become "active agents" of the political and Party line, which does not harmonise with the line of Trotsky, then Trotsky settles the question unceremoniously, directly and immediately these advanced workers are "in a state of utter political perplexity," and he, Trotsky, is obviously "in a state" of political firmness, clarity and correctness regarding the line! And this very same Trotsky, beating his chest, thunders against factionalism, against narrow circles, and against the intelligentsia foisting their will on the workers!

Really, reading such things we involuntarily ask ourselves whether these voices emanate from a lunatic asylum.

The question of liquidationism and of condemning it has been placed before the "advanced workers" by the Party since 1908,<sup>1</sup> and the question of a split with the precisely defined group of liquidators (namely—the *Nasha Zarya* group), i.e., the question of the impossibility of building up the Party otherwise than *without* that group and in opposition to it—this latter question was raised in January 1912, more than two years ago. The advanced workers, by an overwhelming majority, declared themselves pre-

<sup>1</sup> This refers to the December All Russian Conference of 1908. See "Liquidationism and the Group of Liquidators," pp. 151-52.—Ed. Eng. ed.

cisely in favour of supporting the "January (1912) line" ' Trotsky himself admitted this fact when he spoke about "conquests" and "numerous advanced workers" And Trotsky dismisses the matter simply by *abusing* these advanced workers as "splitters" and "politically perplexed"!

People who have not taken leave of their senses will draw a different conclusion from these facts Where the *majority* of class conscious workers have rallied to precise and definite decisions, there is *unity* of opinion and action, there is Party spirit and a Party

Perplexity and *schism* reign precisely where we saw liquidators, "removed from their posts" by workers, or among half a dozen groups abroad, which for two years have produced *no* proof of their being connected with the mass labour movement in Russia Now by trying to persuade the workers *not to carry out the decisions* of that "whole" which is recognised by the Marxists *Pravda* ists, Trotsky is trying to disrupt the movement and cause a split

These attempts are impotent, but it is necessary to expose the leaders of the small groups of the intelligentsia who have gone too far in their conceit and who, while themselves causing a split, shout about a split, who after two or more years, having suffered *complete defeat* in the eyes of the advanced workers, spit with incredible insolence upon the decisions and the will of these advanced workers and call them "politically perplexed" Surely these are entirely the methods of Nozdrev, or Yudushka Golov lev \*

And in our capacity as publicists we shall never tire of repeating the *precise*, unrefuted and irrefutable data in answer to the repeated shouts about a split In the Second Duma 47 per cent of the workers' electoral college<sup>2</sup> consisted of Bolshevik deputies, in

<sup>1</sup> This refers to the January (Prague) All Russian Conference of 1912 See present volume, pp 149 54—*Ed Eng ed*

<sup>2</sup> The elections to the Duma were indirect, the electors were divided into different categories, or curiæ, according to property qualifications, each category voting separately Factory workers were in a separate category The electors in each category voted not directly for the candidate but for "electors," who, in turn met together as an electoral college in each gubernia to elect the member of the Duma—*Ed Eng ed*

the Third Duma their proportion rose to 50 per cent, in the Fourth Duma to 67 per cent

Here you have the majority of the "advanced workers," here you have the Party, here you have the unity of opinion and action of the majority of class conscious workers

The liquidators say in reply (see Bulkin and L. M. in *Nasha Arya*, No 3) that we are using arguments based on Stolypin's electoral colleges. This objection is unreasonable and dishonest. The Germans measure their successes at the polls in accordance with the Bismarck electoral law, which disfranchises women. Only lunatics could reproach the German Marxists for measuring their successes under *the given* electoral law, although they do not in any way justify its reactionary restrictions.

It is the same in our case. Without defending the electoral colleges, or the electoral college system, we measured our success under *the given* electoral law. Electoral colleges existed under all three Dumas (Second, Third and Fourth), it is *within* one and the same workers' electoral college, *within* Social Democracy that a *complete* change has set in against the liquidators. Whoever does not want to deceive himself and others must recognise this objective fact of the victory of *labour unity* as *against* the liquidators.

The other objection is just as "intelligent" both the Mensheviks and the liquidators voted for (and took part in the election of) such and such Bolsheviks. Excellent! And does this not hold good in respect of the 53 per cent of the *non* Bolshevik deputies in the Second Duma, of the 50 per cent in the Third Duma and the 33 per cent in the Fourth Duma?

If the figures of the workers' electors or representatives were available instead of the figures of the deputies we would gladly have taken them; but such more detailed figures are *not* available and so the "objectors" are simply throwing dust in the eyes of the public.

What about the figures of the workers' groups which assisted the newspapers of various tendencies? During the *two* years (1912 and 1913) 2,801 groups were in favour of *Pravda* and 740 in favour



of *Luch* <sup>1</sup> Anyone can verify these figures and no one has attempted to refute them

Where then is the *unity of action and the will of the majority* of the "advanced workers," and where is the *violation* of the will of the majority?

Trotsky's "non factionalism" is schism, in the sense that it is a most impudent violation of the will of the majority of the workers

### III COLLAPSE OF THE AUGUST "BLOC"

But there is another, very important method of verifying the correctness and truthfulness of the charge of schism hurled by Trotsky

You believe it is precisely the "Leninists" who are the splitters? Very well, let us assume that you are right

But if you are right, why did not all the other factions and groups prove that unity with the liquidators was possible *without* the "Leninists" and *against* the "splitters"? If we are splitters, why did not you, the uniters, unite with each other and with the liquidators? Had you done so, you would have proved to the workers *in deeds* that unity was possible and beneficial

Let us recall events in their chronological order

In January 1912 the "splitters," "Leninists," declare that they are a party-*without* the liquidators and *against* them

In March 1912 *all* the groups and "factions"—the liquidators, the Trotskyists, the *Vperyod* ists, the "Party Bolsheviks," the "Party Mensheviks"—*combine* against these "splitters" in their Russian leaflets and in the columns of the German Social Democratic news paper *Vorwärts* All of them, harmoniously, unanimously, in an agreed and identical fashion, call us "usurpers," "mystifiers" and other no less tender and endearing nicknames

Very well, gentlemen! But what could have been easier for you than to *combine against* the "usurpers" and give the "advanced workers" an example of *unity*? Had the advanced workers seen, on the one side, the unity of all against the usurpers, the unity of

<sup>1</sup> The preliminary statistics up to April 14 [1] 1914, gave 4,000 groups in favour of *Pravda* (from January 14 [1] 1912) and 1,000 for the liquidators and all their allies.

both the liquidators and the *non* liquidators, and on the other side, only "usurpers," "splitters," etc., would they not have supported the former?

If the differences are only invented or exaggerated, etc., by the "Leninists," and the unity of liquidators, Plekhanovists, *Vperyod* ists and Trotskyists, etc., is indeed *possible*, then why have you not proved this by *your own* example during these two years?

In August 1912, the conference of the "uniters" met. Discord set in at once: the Plekhanovists refused to come; the *Vperyod* ists came, but left with a protest and exposed the fictitiousness of the entire venture.

"Unity" was effected between the liquidators, Letts, Trotskyists (Trotsky and Semkovsky), the Caucasians and the "seven".<sup>1</sup> But did they unite? We declared at the time that they did not, that it was only a cover for liquidationism. Have events refuted our assertion?

Exactly a year and a half later, in February 1914, it turned out

- 1) That the "seven" was falling to pieces—Buryanov left it,
- 2) That of the remaining "six," Chkheidze and Tulyakov or someone else could not agree on the answer to be given to Plekhanov. They had announced in the press that they would answer him, *but they could not give that answer*,
- 3) That Trotsky, who in fact had disappeared from *Luch* many months before that, *refused to co-operate* and published "his own" magazine *Borba*. By calling his magazine "non factional" Trotsky clearly implies by it (clearly to all who are in any way familiar with the matter) that in his, Trotsky's, opinion, *Nasha Zarya* and *Luch* have turned out to be "factional," *i.e.*, bad uniters.

My dear Trotsky, if you are a uniter, if you say that unity with the liquidators is possible, if you, in common with them, take your stand on the "basic ideas formulated in August 1912" (*Borba*,

<sup>1</sup> The Menshevik fraction in the Fourth Imperial Duma. About the split of the Social Democratic fraction in that Duma into two independent fractions—the Menshevik "seven" and the Bolshevik "six"—see note to page 200\* in the present volume.—Ed. Eng. ed.

No 1, p 6, editorial), then why did you yourself not unite with the liquidators of *Nasha Zarya* and of *Luch*?

When, even before the publication of Trotsky's magazine, a biting article appeared in *Severnaya Rabochaya Gazeta* on the "unclear" political complexion of the magazine and on the fact that "quite a great deal was being said" about it "in Marxian circles," *Put Pravdy*<sup>1</sup> (No 37) naturally had to expose the untruth "in Marxian circles they spoke" about a secret memorandum written by Trotsky *against* the *Luch* ists, Trotsky's political complexion and his secession from the August bloc is now quite "clear"

- 4) An, the well known leader of the Caucasian liquidators who had expressed himself in opposition to L Sedov (and received a good drubbing for it in public at the hands of F Dan and Co ), now turns up in *Borba*. It is still "unclear" do the Caucasians now wish to go with Trotsky, or with Dan?
- 5) The Lettish Marxists, the only genuine organisation in the "August bloc," have *formally* left it, having declared (1914) in the resolution of their last congress

*"The attempt on the part of the conciliators to unite at all costs with the liquidators (the August Conference of 1912) proved futile, and the uniters themselves became ideologically and politically dependent on the liquidators"*

This statement was made, after one and a half years' experience, by the organisation which itself takes a *neutral* position, not wishing to come into contact with *either* of the two centres. All the more weighty, therefore, should this decision of *neutral* people be for Trotsky!

Enough, one would think

People who accused us of schism, of unwillingness, or inability, to get on with the liquidators, *themselves* could not get on with them. The August bloc turned out to be a fiction and collapsed.

In concealing this collapse from his readers, Trotsky is deceiving them.

The experience of our opponents has proved that we were right, it has proved that it is impossible to work with the liquidators.

<sup>1</sup> *The Path of Truth*—Ed Eng ed

## IV A CONCILIATOR'S ADVICE TO THE "SEVEN"

The leading article in *Borba*, No 1, entitled "The Split in the Duma Fraction," contains advice from a conciliator to the seven deputies in the State Duma who are pro liquidationist (or are wavering towards liquidationism) The essence of the advice is contained in the following sentence

" in the first instance to apply to the 'six' in all cases when an agreement with other fractions is necessary " (P 29)

Now, this is sound advice on which Trotsky, by the way, apparently disagrees with the liquidator *Luchists* The *Pravdaists* have taken precisely this standpoint ever since the beginning of the struggle of the two fractions in the Duma, since the resolution of the Summer Conference (1913)\* was passed The Russian Social Democratic Labour fraction has repeatedly stated in the press, even after the split that it continued to maintain this position, in spite of the repeated refusals of the "seven"

From the very beginning, ever since the resolution of the Summer Conference was passed, we have thought and still think that *agreements* on questions of *Duma* work are desirable and possible, if such agreements have repeatedly been made with petty bourgeois peasant democrats (*Trudoviki*), they are, of course, all the more possible and necessary with the petty bourgeois liberal labour politicians

We must not exaggerate differences and we must face realities the "seven" are people who are wavering towards liquidationism, who yesterday whole heartedly followed Dan, and who now turn their eyes longingly from Dan to Trotsky and back again The liquidators are a group of legalists who have left the Party and are pursuing a liberal labour policy In view of their rejection of underground work there can be no question of unity with that group in the matter of Party construction and the labour movement Whoever thinks otherwise is profoundly mistaken, since he fails to take into account the vastness of the changes that have occurred since 1908

But *agreements* on particular questions with this group, which

is outside the Party, or near the Party, are of course permissible we must always force this group, as well as the 'Trudoviki, to choose between the workers' (*Pravda*ist) policy and the liberal policy For instance, on the question of the struggle for the free dom of the press, the liquidators clearly betrayed vacillation between the liberal presentation of the question, which denied or forgot the non censored press, and the opposite, workers' policy

Within the scope of *Duma* politics, when the most important questions concerning matters *outside the Duma* are not directly raised, agreements with the "seven" liberal labour deputies are possible and desirable On this point Trotsky passed from the liquidators to the position of the Party Summer Conference (1913)

One must not forget, however, that, from the point of view of the group which is outside the Party, agreement means something very different from what Party members usually take it to mean For non Party people, "agreement" in the Duma is the "*framing* of a tactical resolution or of a policy" For Party people, an agreement is an attempt to *enlist* others for the purpose of carrying out the Party policy

The Trudoviki, for instance, have no party By agreement they mean the "free framing" of a policy, so to say today with the Cadets, tomorrow with the Social Democrats We, however, understand an agreement with the Trudoviki to mean something very different we have Party decisions on all the important questions of tactics, and we shall never recede from these decisions, by coming to an agreement with the Trudoviki we mean *enlisting* them on our side, *convincing* them that we are right, *not refusing* to take part in joint action against the Black Hundreds and against the liberals

To what extent Trotsky has forgotten (after all, his association with the liquidators has affected him) the elementary difference between agreements from the Party and the non Party standpoint can be seen from the following argument which he uses

"The representatives of the International should bring together the two parts into which our parliamentary representative body has split, and jointly with them consider what unites them and what divides them A detailed

tactical resolution can be framed formulating the principles of parliamentary tactics " (No 1, pp 29 30 )

This is a characteristic and very typical specimen of the liquidationist presentation of the question! Trotsky's magazine forgets about the Party and, indeed, is it worth while remembering such a trifle?

When different parties in Europe (Trotsky is fond of talking irrelevantly of Europeanism) come to an agreement, or unite, what happens is this their representatives come together and as certain, first of all, the points of difference (precisely what the International placed on the order of the day for Russia, keeping out of the resolution Kautsky's rash allegation that "the old Party no longer exists"<sup>1</sup>) Having ascertained the points of difference, the representatives indicate *what decisions* (resolutions, conditions, etc ) on the questions of tactics, organisation, etc , *must be submitted to the congresses of both parties* If they succeed in outlining a draft of joint decisions, the congresses decide whether to accept them, if *different* proposals are outlined, these too are finally discussed by the congresses of both parties

Only the *European* examples of opportunism, and not the examples of the European Party spirit, have any "attraction" for the liquidators and Trotsky

The Duma deputies will frame the "detailed tactical resolutions"! The Russian "advanced workers," with whom Trotsky has good reason to be so dissatisfied, can clearly see from the example given the lengths to which the grouplets in Vienna and in Paris, which persuaded even Kautsky that there was "no Party" in Russia, go in their ridiculous project mongering But while people sometimes succeed in deceiving foreigners in this respect, the Russian advanced workers (at the risk of rousing the ire of the formidable Trotsky once more) will simply laugh in the face of these project mongers

They will say to them "Our detailed tactical resolutions are drawn up by Party congresses and conferences (we do not know how you non Party people do it), for example, those of 1907, 1908, 1910, 1912 and 1913 We shall gladly acquaint the unin

<sup>1</sup> See note to page 209 \*—Ed Eng ed

formed foreigners, and also the forgetful Russians, with our Party decisions and we shall, with still greater pleasure, ask the representatives of the 'seven' or the 'Augustians' or 'Levitsevisks,' \* or whomever you like, to inform us of the resolutions of their congresses and conferences, to raise at their next congress the definite question of what their attitude is towards our resolutions, or to wards the resolution of the neutral Lettish Congress of 1914,<sup>1</sup> etc "

That is what the "advanced workers" of Russia will say to the various project mongers, that is, for instance, what the organised Marxists of St Petersburg have *already said* in the Marxian press. It suits Trotsky to ignore these printed conditions for the liquidators. So much the worse for Trotsky. Our duty is to warn the readers against the ridiculousness of "unity" projects (of the "August bloc" type) which do not take into account the will of the majority of the class conscious workers of Russia.

#### V TROTSKY'S LIQUIDATIONIST VIEWS

In his magazine Trotsky has tried to say as little as possible about the essence of his views. *Put Pravdy* (No. 37) has already pointed out that Trotsky has not uttered a word either on the question of illegal work, or on the slogan of the struggle for an open party, etc. Incidentally, that is why we say in this case, in which a segregated organisation wants to set itself up *without* having an ideological political complexion, that it is the *worst* sort of factionalism.

But although Trotsky has avoided expounding his views directly, a whole series of passages in his magazine indicate the kind of ideas he is stealthily introducing and concealing.

In the very first editorial in the first number we read

"Pre-revolutionary Social Democracy was a *workers* party in its ideas and in its aims only. In reality it was an organisation of the Marxian intelligentsia, which led the awakening working class." (P. 5)

This is an old liberal and liquidationist ditty, which serves, in fact, as an introduction to the *renunciation* of the Party. This ditty

<sup>1</sup> See above, in this article, p. 199—*Ed. Eng. ed.*

is based on a distortion of historical facts. The strikes of 1895 and 1896 had already created a *mass* labour movement, which was connected, both ideologically and organisationally, with Social Democracy. And it was to these strikes, to the economic and non economic agitation, that "the intelligentsia led the working class"!!?

Or take the precise statistics on political offences for the period of 1901-03 as compared with the preceding period

OCCUPATIONS OF PARTICIPANTS IN THE LIBERATION MOVEMENT  
PROSECUTED FOR POLITICAL OFFENCES (in percentage)

Periods	Agriculture	Trade and Industry	Liberal Professions and Students	No Definite Occupation, or No Occupation
1884-90	71	15.1	53.3	19.9
1901-03	9.0	46.1	28.7	8.0

We see that in the 'eighties, when there was as yet no Social Democratic Party in Russia, when the movement was "Narodnik," the intelligentsia preponderated: it supplied more than half the participants.

The picture changed completely in 1901-03 when there was already a Social Democratic Party, when the old *Iskra* was conducting its work. The intelligentsia then constituted the *minority* among the participants in the movement, the *workers* ("trade and industry") were far more numerous than the intelligentsia, and workers and peasants taken together constituted more than half the total.

It is in the very struggle of tendencies within Marxism that the petty bourgeois intellectual wing of Social Democracy revealed itself, beginning with "Economism" (1895-1903) and continuing as "Menshevism" (1903-08) and "liquidationism" (1908-14).

Trotsky repeats the liquidationist libels upon the Party, but he fears to touch the twenty years' history of the struggle of tendencies within the Party.

Here is another example

"In its attitude towards parliamentarism Russian Social Democracy passed through the same three stages" (as in other countries) "first 'boycottism' then the recognition in principle of parliamentary tactics but" (a magnificent "but," that same "but" that Shchedrin translated by the



phrase ears do not grow higher than the forehead they never do!)  
 for purely agitational purposes and finally the urgent demands are  
 transferred to the Duma tribune " (No 1 p 34)

This is another liquidationist distortion of history. The difference between the second and third stages is invented in order to smuggle in a defence of reformism and opportunism. Boycottism as a stage in the "attitude of Social Democracy towards parliamentarism" existed *neither* in Europe (there was anarchism there, and still is) *nor* in Russia where the boycott, for instance, of the Bulygin Duma<sup>1</sup> affected *only* a definite institution, was *never* connected with "parliamentarism" and was called forth by the peculiar struggle between liberalism and Marxism for the continuation of the attack. Trotsky does not so much as stammer a word on how this struggle affected the struggle between the two tendencies in Marxism.

When we refer to history we must explain concrete questions and the class roots of the various trends, whoever wants in a Marxian way to study the struggle of classes and the struggle of trends that was waged around the question of participating in the Bulygin Duma will find there the roots of the liberal labour policy. But Trotsky "refers" to history in order to *avoid* the concrete questions and to *invent* a justification, or a semblance of a justification, for the present day opportunists!

He writes

"Practically all the tendencies apply the same methods of struggle and construction" "The cries about a liberal danger in our labour movement are simply a coarse sectarian caricature of reality" (No 1, pp 5 and 35)

This is a very obvious, and a very angry defence of the liquidators. But we shall take the liberty of selecting just one small fact, one of the latest ones—Trotsky only hurls phrases, we would like the workers themselves to ponder over the fact.

The fact is that *Severnaya Rabochaya Gazeta* in its issue of March 26 [13] wrote

"Instead of emphasising the definite concrete task confronting the working class, i.e., that of forcing the Duma to reject the bill (on the press)—

<sup>1</sup> See Lenin, *Selected Works*, Vol. III, "The Boycott of the Bulygin Duma and the Insurrection"—Ed. Eng. ed.

*a vague formula is advanced of fighting for uncurtailed slogans, and at the same time an advertising campaign for the illegal press is conducted which can only weaken the workers' struggle for their legal press'*

Here you have a documentary, clear and definite defence of the liquidationist policy and a criticism of the *Pravda*ist policy. Well, will any literate person say that both tendencies apply "the same methods of struggle and construction" to the given question? Will any literate person say that the liquidators are *not* here pursuing a *liberal* labour policy? or that the liberal danger in the labour movement has been invented?

Trotsky avoids facts and concrete indications just because they mercilessly refute all his angry exclamations and pompous phrases. It is of course very easy to assume a proud pose and say "coarse sectarian caricature." It is equally easy to add more slashing and pompous catchwords about "emancipation from conservative factionalism."

But is this not too cheap? Is this not a weapon taken from the arsenal of the period when Trotsky was dazzling the schoolboys?

The "advanced workers," with whom Trotsky is angry, would nevertheless like to be told plainly and clearly do you approve of that "method of struggle and construction" which is expressed in the above quoted evaluation of a concrete political campaign? Yes or no? If yes, then this is a liberal labour policy, it is treachery to Marxism and the Party, and to talk of "peace" and "unity" with *such* a policy, with groups pursuing *such* a policy, is deceiving oneself and others.

If no, then say so plainly. But you will not astonish, satisfy or terrify the present day worker with phrases.

By the way, the policy preached by the liquidators in the above quotation is stupid even from a liberal standpoint, because the passing of a law in the Duma depends on the "Zemstvo Octobrists" of the Benningsten type, who exposed their cards in the commission

\* \* \*

The old participants in the Marxian movement in Russia know Trotsky's personality very well, and it is not worth while talking to them about it. But the young generation of workers do not know him and we must speak of him, for he is typical of all the five

grouplets abroad, which in fact are also vacillating between the liquidators and the Party

During the period of the old *Iskra* (1901 03) these waverers who deserted from the "Economists" to the *Iskra* ists and back again were dubbed "Tushino deserters" (Such was the name given during the "disturbed times"<sup>1</sup> in old Russ to warriors deserting one camp for another)

When we talk of liquidationism we speak of a definite ideological trend, which has been growing for years, whose roots throughout the twenty years' history of Marxism are bound up with "Menshevism" and "Economism," with the policy and the ideology of a definite class—the liberal bourgeoisie

The "Tushino deserters" declare themselves to be above factions for the simple reason that they "borrow" ideas from one faction one day and from another faction another day Trotsky was an ardent *Iskra*-ist in 1901 03, and Ryazanov described the part he played at the Congress of 1903 as that of "Lenin's truncheon" \* At the end of 1903 Trotsky was an ardent Menshevik, i e, one who deserted the *Iskra* ists for the "Economists", he proclaimed that "there is a deep gulf between the old and the new *Iskra*" In 1904 05 he left the Mensheviks and began to vacillate, at one moment collaborating with Martynov (the "Economist"), and at another proclaiming the absurdly "Left" theory of "permanent revolution"<sup>2</sup> In 1906 07 he drew nearer to the Bolsheviks, and in the spring of 1907 he declared his solidarity with Rosa Luxemburg \*\*

During the period of disintegration, after long "non factional"

<sup>1</sup> The *interregnum* early in the seventeenth century before the election of the Romanovs to the throne of Russia in 1613 —Ed Eng ed

<sup>2</sup> The theory that, having captured political power, the Russian proletariat would have to make inroads on the private property of the peasantry This would rouse the peasantry against the proletarian state, so that the latter could not be victorious unless it received the state aid of the proletariat of other countries, that is to say, unless the proletarian revolution took place in other countries Trotsky thus displayed lack of faith in the revolutionary potentialities of the peasantry After the October Revolution this theory led to his denial of the possibility of building socialism in a single country and to his desertion to the camp of the counter revolution —Ed Eng ed

vacillations, he again shifted to the Right, and in August 1912 entered into a *bloc* with the liquidators. Now he is again abandoning them, repeating, however, what *in essence* are their pet ideas.

Such types are characteristic as fragments of the historical formations of yesterday, when the mass labour movement of Russia was still dormant and every grouplet was "free" to represent itself as a tendency, group, faction, in a word a "great power" talking of uniting with others.

The young generation of workers must know very well with whom it has to deal, when incredible pretensions are made by people who absolutely do not want to consider *either* the Party decisions, which since 1908 have determined and defined the attitude to be adopted towards liquidationism, *or* the experience of the present day labour movement in Russia, which has in fact created the *unity* of the majority on the basis of the full recognition of the above mentioned decisions.

May 1914

## A GOOD RESOLUTION AND A BAD SPEECH\*

ALL class conscious workers in Russia have undoubtedly read the resolution on Russian affairs adopted by the International Bureau<sup>1</sup> with interest and attention. The gist of this resolution, as is known, is the decision to organise or arrange "*a general exchange of opinion*" between "all factions in the labour movement" in Russia, both those recognising the Social Democratic programme and those whose programme "is in agreement" (or "in accord"—*im Einklange*) with it.

The last named definition is exceedingly broad, for it includes not only the followers of Yagello,<sup>2</sup> but every group that chooses to declare that its programme is "in accord" or "in agreement" with the programme of the Social Democrats. However, this broad definition does no harm, because for the purposes of an "*exchange of opinion*" it is, of course, desirable to define the composition of the participants on a broader scale, not excluding those with whom even separate groups of Social Democrats *would like* to unite. It is necessary to bear in mind that at the meeting of the International Socialist Bureau two plans were proposed. 1.) Kautsky's plan—"to arrange a general exchange of opinion" and *nothing else*. An exchange of opinion before an impartial body, namely, the Executive Committee of the International Socialist Bureau, would *elucidate* the state of affairs and reveal how deep are the differences of opinion. 2.) The other plan was proposed by Rosa Luxemburg but was withdrawn by her after Kautsky's objections, according to that plan, a "unity conference" (*Einigungskonferenz*) was proposed "in order to restore a united party."

Of course, this last plan was worse, because it was necessary first of all to collect precise data, to say nothing of the fact that it was only an attempt on the part of Rosa Luxemburg to smuggle in the "restoration" of the sadly notorious "Tyazko circle" \*\*

<sup>1</sup> The International Bureau of the Second International—*Ed Eng ed*

<sup>2</sup> See note to page 203 \*—*Ed Eng ed*

Kautsky's plan was accepted, it was the more cautious, the more systematic plan, which approached the question of unity *by means* of a preliminary "exchange of opinion" and the investigation of precise data. Quite naturally, therefore, Kautsky's resolution was passed unanimously.

But it is necessary to distinguish Kautsky's resolution, which was adopted as the resolution of the Bureau, from the speech delivered by Kautsky, who on one point said *monstrous* things. We have already briefly referred to this circumstance, and now the report of Kautsky's speech in *Vorwärts* (the principal German organ) forces us to dwell at greater length on this important question.

In opposing Rosa Luxemburg, Kautsky said that "the old Party has disappeared, although the old names have been preserved in the course of time" (*im Laufe der Jahre*), in the last few years, "these names have acquired a new content. Old comrades should not be summarily expelled simply because their party" (*ihre Partei*) "does not bear the old name."

In reply to this Rosa Luxemburg said that "Kautsky's remark, alleging that the Russian Party is dead" (*set tot*), "is a rash phrase," and Kautsky confined himself to a "protest against the imputation that he had stated that Russian Social Democracy was dead. He only said that the old forms were disrupted, and that it was necessary to establish a new form."

The above is the translation of the passages referring to our question in the official report.

It is obvious that Kautsky did not say and could not say that *Social Democracy* was dead. But he *did* say that the Party had disappeared and he *did not withdraw* that in spite of the objection that was raised.

It is incredible, yet it is a fact.

The confusion displayed by Kautsky is unbelievably great. To the expulsion of *which* "old comrades" did he refer? Messrs Potresov and Co? Was it liquidationist amorphousness that he described as "*their party*"?

Or did Kautsky have in mind the "*levitsa* of the Polish Socialist Party,"<sup>1</sup> which Rosa Luxemburg's formula excluded? But if that is

<sup>1</sup> See note to page 203 \*—Ed. Eng. ed.

the case, then the expression "old comrades" is unintelligible, for *never*, from the very beginning of the existence of the Social Democratic Party, *i.e.*, since 1898, have the members of the Polish Socialist Party been Party comrades of the Social Democrats *at all*!

For us, both interpretations mean the same thing, for it is really ridiculous in an "exchange of opinions" on the question of unity to exclude the liquidators (surely the whole question turns about them), as it would be ridiculous to exclude the *Levitsa* of the Polish Socialist Party (it is possible, speaking in the abstract, that the liquidators—anything may be expected from them—are capable of defending, in the form of an ultimatum, their schismatic bloc with a *non* Social Democratic Party—the Polish Socialist Party) We must in any case know exactly not only what Messieurs the liquidators want from the Party but also what their allies want.

The indisputable fact remains that at the meeting of the Bureau Kautsky went so far as to allege that the Russian Party had disappeared.

How could he come to utter such a monstrous thing? In order to understand this the Russian workers must know *who is informing* the German Social Democratic press on Russian affairs. When the Germans write they usually avoid the question of differences. When Russians write in the German Social Democratic publications, we see either an alliance of all the grouplets abroad with the liquidators for the purpose of heaping the most indecent abuse upon the "Leninists" (such was the case in *Vorwärts* in the spring of 1912), or the writings of a Tyszko 1st, Trotskyist or some other person belonging to a circle abroad who deliberately confuses the question. For years there has not been a single document, no collection of resolutions, no analysis of ideas, not a single attempt to collect factual data!

Let us pity the German leaders who (knowing how to collect and study data when engaged on theory) are not ashamed to listen to and repeat the tales of the liquidationist informants.

It is the *resolution* of the Bureau that will be applied in actual life and Kautsky's speech will remain a sad curiosity.

December 1913

## ONCE MORE ABOUT THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST BUREAU AND THE LIQUIDATORS <sup>1</sup>

THE distinguishing feature of the publicists of the *New Liquidationist Newspaper*,<sup>2</sup> viz, hypocrisy, stimulated by impotent malice, has never before reached such limits as it has in their articles on the decision of the International Bureau

The lengths they have gone to is obvious from the fact that, after their very first articles on this subject, the Secretary of the International Socialist Bureau, Huysmans, was obliged to authorise Comrade Popov to transmit to the Russian workers his protest against the attempts made by *Novaya Rabochaya Gazeta* to "exploit, in their factional interests, the lack of information" of the Russian readers, his protest against the "absolute incorrectness and disloyalty" of the news printed by the liquidators concerning the decisions of the Bureau

Since the publicists of *Novaya Rabochaya Gazeta* have received such a resounding characterisation from the Secretary of the Bureau, we can calmly ignore their attempts to accuse us of distorting the true character of the decisions passed in London. Persons publicly denounced by the Secretary of the Bureau for "exploiting" the decisions of the Bureau "in their factional interests" and for their "disloyal" attitude towards these decisions may shout as much as they please about their respect for the International etc, but they will scarcely be believed by anyone. Every worker knows now the real name for the manipulations by which Mr Dan contrives with great effort to find, in the resolutions of the Bureau, "the methods of construction" of the Party, the "condemnation" of the "six,"<sup>3</sup> the "rejection" of our "claim" and the

<sup>1</sup> See note to page 209 \*—*Ed. Eng. ed.*

<sup>2</sup> *Novaya Rabochaya Gazeta* [*New Labour Gazette*]—*Ed.*

<sup>3</sup> See note to page 200 \*—*Ed. Eng. ed.*



"recognition" of the Social Democratic character of the *Levitsa*! Literary juggling with the resolutions of the Bureau is not a sign of respect for these resolutions, Mr. Dan!

How great is the confusion of these jugglers, however! See how they are forced to refute their own statements at every step!

1) In No 102, Mr. Dan solemnly announced "The International Socialist Bureau *condemned* the desertion of the fraction by the six deputies." In the next issue but one, in No 104, another juggler, Mr. L. Sedov, declared not less solemnly "The International Socialist Bureau issued neither testimonials nor condemnations." And—note!—both worthies are highly satisfied with the decisions of the Bureau: one because it "*condemned*" and the other because it did not condemn! Can one imagine a picture of greater confusion?

And Messieurs the liquidators had good reason to be confused! The basic point of the resolution of the Bureau states unambiguously "*Any practical step towards unity must be preceded by a preliminary elucidation of the existing differences*."

And this decision is perfectly correct.

If we do not wish to present a shapeless confusion of the most diverse elements to the working class under the name of "unity," if we want real unity in the *work*, then the first obligatory step in this direction must be the precise elucidation of the "points of difference." Let the "points of difference" be clearly elucidated with the aid of a "general exchange of opinion," and then it will become clear whether it is possible to talk about any practical steps towards unity. That is the way the question is presented in the resolution of the Bureau. We heartily welcome this presentation of the question. We responded to the proposal of the International Socialist Bureau by calling upon the workers to discuss the differences once more, calmly and thoughtfully, and to express their views on the points of difference. We on our part promised to do all we could to help the foreign comrades to become acquainted with the existing differences. The resolution printed in *Proletarskaya Pravda*, No 9,\* quite correctly enumerates the

\* See note to page 203.—Ed. Eng. ed.

propositions on which we and the liquidators differ. Such had to be our reply to the proposal of the Bureau, and of course those who treat the decision of the Bureau to bring about a "general exchange of opinion concerning points of differences" seriously could not act otherwise.

But—and here is the rub—there is nothing more disagreeable, undesirable, unacceptable for Messieurs the liquidators than the elucidation of the prevailing theoretical, programme, tactical and organisational differences. The purpose of all their juggling, distortions and abuse in connection with the resolution of the Bureau is exclusively to hush up this demand of the resolution for a preliminary elucidation of differences. Both Mr L. Sedov and Mr Dan are most assiduously trying to forestall events: would it not be possible to "unite" without "referring" to the ideological "service record" of those uniting? Would it not be possible to dispense with "quotations from old magazines and newspapers"?—Mr L. Sedov asks, greatly perturbed. Can we not leave off recalling the "past"?—pleads Mr Dan. We understand them very well: there is nothing pleasant for Mr L. Sedov in recalling the articles on illegal work (*Luch*, No [101] 15), or for Mr Dan in recalling the slogan of "the struggle for legality." And we fully endorse the decision of the Bureau in so far as it proposes not to dig up the errors of the past. We shall not refuse to grant an amnesty for the "errors of the past," that amnesty for which Messieurs the liquidators are petitioning. The past, as such, does not interest us, we are interested in the work of today and of tomorrow. And concerning this work we want to know whether the baiting of underground activities will be *continued* in the liquidationist press, whether they will persist in arguing that the "three whales"<sup>1</sup> are unsuitable at the present time, whether they will continue to defend the distortion of the programme by the "Augustians,"<sup>2</sup> etc.

The elucidation of these questions and of the degree of difference with regard to them is, according to the resolution of the Bureau, the *preliminary* condition for any step forward in the matter of unity—unless we understand "unity" in the liquidationist sense, i.e.,

<sup>1</sup> See note to page 15 \*\*—*Ed Eng ed*

<sup>2</sup> See note to page 180 \*—*Ed Eng ed*

throwing into one heap all those who have taken it into their heads to call themselves Social Democrats irrespective of the ideas they hold

"The counts of the indictment have already been drawn up," thunders Mr L Sedov We should not like to recall here the proverb about the man whose hat burns,<sup>1</sup> but why does Mr Sedov take ordinary peace terms to be an indictment? We say that organisation which would be formed as a result of unity should take its stand on such and such principles—the recognition of the old programme, a certain form of organisation, uncurtailed slogans, resolute tactics, etc And you immediately declare that this formulation of the programme, of the tactics and the tasks of the organisation, is nothing but a "complete list of liquidationist sins" We are very sorry for you, but neither we nor the Bureau know of any other method of building new organisations than by elucidating their programme, their tactics, etc

However, we are guilty of a still more grievous sin Not only have we advanced the conditions for the creation of an organisation, *i.e.*, not only have we elucidated the conditions of peace, but we have, in addition, submitted these conditions to the judgment of the workers

We insist that there is no other way of carrying out the decision of the Bureau than the one we have chosen

The Bureau calls upon *all those* who profess to be Social Democrats to elucidate the differences that separate them, as a preliminary step to the solution of the problem of unity

The resolution which we have printed responded to the appeal of the Bureau by a "list" of views on the basic questions of the programme, tactics and organisation and by submitting our list to the comrade workers for their consideration Had Messieurs the liquidators followed our example, we would have had, in the more or less near future, clearly formulated opinions of all parties and precise information as to which side is supported by the majority of the organised workers The task set before the Russian proletariat by the International Socialist Bureau would have been brought

<sup>1</sup> The proverb is "The thief's hat burns," which means a guilty mind is never at ease—*Ed Eng ed*

nearer fulfilment But the liquidators, of course, will continue to the end to avoid that path, for the simple reason that a precise formulation of their political views as well as a submission of these views to the tribunal of the broad masses of the workers are equally disadvantageous to the interests of their circle

Under these conditions they will inevitably strive to substitute for the definite "elucidation of differences," demanded by the Bureau, the petty personal squabbles, distortions, wilful misrepresentations, which can only hamper its work, and they will always call forth those lessons in "loyalty" which the Secretary of the International was once forced to teach Messieurs the liquidators.

January 1914 [December 1913]

### PART III

#### THE AGRARIAN PEASANT QUESTION IN THE YEARS OF REACTION AND OF THE NEW REVIVAL (1908-1914)



LETTER TO I I SKVORTSOV STEPANOV \*

December 29 [16], 1909

DEAR COLLEAGUE!

I have received your answer and am writing to continue our discussion

You *want* to shift the question more to the theoretical (not tactical) ground I agree I shall only remind you that *your* point of departure was a tactical one certainly you rejected the "classical presentation" of the basic tactical proposition You indicated this tactical solution (without drawing the final tactical *conclusions* from it) in connection with the rejection of the "American possibility" Therefore I do not consider the following statement of yours concerning our differences to be correct, you say "You" (*i.e.*, I) "emphasise the existence of a movement of the peasantry I recognise the existence of a movement of the peasantry that is becoming *proletarianised*" But this is not the point of difference Of course I do not deny that the peasantry is becoming proletarianised The point of difference is whether the bourgeois agrarian system has taken root in Russia to such an extent as to make a sharp transition from the "Prussian" development of agrarian capitalism to the "American" development of agrarian capitalism objectively impossible If it has, the "classical" presentation of the basic question of tactics falls to the ground If not—it is preserved

I maintain that it must be preserved I do not deny the possibility of the "Prussian" path I admit that a Marxist must not "vouch" for *either* of these ways, he must not *bind himself down* to one of them *only*, I admit that Stolypin's policy is *another* step along the "Prussian" path and that at a certain stage along that

path a dialectical change *may* set in which would abolish all hopes and prospects for an "American" path But I assert that *at the present time* this change has *certainly* not yet come and that, therefore, it is absolutely inadmissible for a Marxist, absolutely wrong theoretically, to renounce the "classical" presentation of the question That is where we differ .

Theoretically these differences reduce themselves to two points, if I am not mistaken 1) I must destroy your "ally," V Ilyin,\* in order to justify my position In other words, this position contradicts the results of the Marxian analysis of the pre-revolutionary economics of Russia 2) The "classical" presentation may and must be opposed to the agrarian opportunism of the revisionists (David and Co ), for there is no substantial, radical difference in principle between the presentation of the question of the workers' attitude towards the "muzhik" in Russia and in Germany

I consider both these propositions to be radically wrong *Ad<sup>1</sup>* 1) in order not to refer to "tactics" I shall waive Martynov's raid \*\* on Ilyin and take up only your presentation of the theoretical question

What did Ilyin argue and prove? First that the development of the agrarian relations in Russia is proceeding on capitalist lines *both* in landlord *and* in peasant economy, *both* in the "commune" *and* outside it Second that this development has already *irrevocably* determined that there will be *no* other path than the capitalist path, *no* other grouping of classes than the capitalist grouping

This was the subject of the dispute with the Narodniki This had to be proved It was proved It remains proved At the present time *another*, a further question is raised (and *was* raised by the movement of 1905-07), which *presupposes* that the problem was solved, solved by Ilyin (and of course not by him alone), but one which presupposes *not* only this, but something bigger, more complex, something *new* Apart from the problem, which was finally and correctly solved in 1883-85 in 1895-99,\*\*\* the history of Rus-

<sup>1</sup> With regard to --Ed



sia in the twentieth century has confronted us with *another* problem, and theoretically there is nothing more erroneous than to recede from it, dismiss it, or waive it aside by a reference to what has already been solved. To do so would mean reducing problems of the second, *i.e.*, higher, order to problems of a lower, the first order. We cannot adhere to the *general* solution of the problem of capitalism when *new* events (and events that are of world historic importance such as those of 1905-07) have raised a more concrete problem in a more detailed fashion, the problem of the struggle between the *two* paths, or methods, of *capitalist* agrarian development. When we were fighting against the Narodniki to prove that this path was inevitably and irrevocably a capitalist one, we were quite right and we could not *but* concentrate our entire strength, our entire attention on the question: either capitalism or "people's production." This was at once natural, inevitable and legitimate. Now, however, this question has been *answered* both in theory and in practice (for the petty bourgeois character of the Trudoviki *en masse* has been proved by recent Russian history), and, on the other, a higher question is on the order of the day: capitalism of type  $\alpha$  or capitalism of type  $\beta$ . And, in my humble opinion, Ilyin was right when, in the preface to the second edition of his book, he pointed out that from it logically follows the possibility of *two* types of capitalist, agrarian development, and that the historical struggle between *these* types has not yet come to an end.

The peculiar feature of Russian opportunism in Marxism, *i.e.*, Menshevism, in our time is that it is associated with a doctrinaire simplification, vulgarisation, distortion of the literal meaning of Marxism, a betrayal of its spirit (such was the case with *Rabocheye Dyelo* and Struve). While fighting Narodism as a wrong doctrine of *socialism*, the Mensheviks, in a doctrinaire fashion, overlooked, missed the historically real and progressive historical *content* of Narodism as a theory of the mass petty bourgeois struggle of democratic capitalism against liberal landlord capitalism, of "American" capitalism versus "Prussian" capitalism. Hence their monstrous, idiotic, renegade idea (which has also thoroughly permeated *Obshchestvennoye Dvizheniye*) that the

peasant *movement* is reactionary, that a Cadet is more progressive than a Trudovik, that the "dictatorship of the proletariat and the peasantry" (the classical presentation) *contradicts* "the entire course of economic development" (P 661 of the Menshevik *Obshchestvennoye Dvizheniye* \*) "*Contradicts the entire course of economic development*"—is this not reactionary?

I maintain that the struggle against this monstrous distortion of Marxism was the basis of the "classical presentation" and a *correct* basis, although unfortunately, owing to the natural conditions of the time, this struggle was very zealously conducted in the domain of tactics, and not zealously enough in the domain of theory "Unfortunately," though, is not the right word here and should be struck out!

This agrarian question is *now* the *national* question of the bourgeois development in Russia, and in order to prevent the mistaken (and mechanical) application of the German model, which in many respects is correct and in all respects very valuable, to our conditions, we must clearly understand that the national question of the definitely established bourgeois development of Germany was unification, etc., and not the agrarian question, whereas the *national* question of the final consolidation of bourgeois development in Russia is *precisely* the agrarian (and now even the peasant) question

Such is the purely theoretical basis of the *difference* in *application* of Marxism in Germany in approximately 1848-68 and in Russia in 1905-19??

How can I prove that in our country the *agrarian* question, and no other, has assumed national significance for bourgeois development? I do not think this even requires proof. I think it is indisputable. But this is precisely the *theoretical* basis and all the separate questions must be *centred on this*. If this is disputed, I shall briefly indicate (briefly for the time being) that it is precisely the course of events, the facts and the *history* of 1905-07 that have *proved* the importance I have indicated of the agrarian (peasant, and of course petty bourgeois peasant, but not com

munal peasant) question in Russia. The same is now proved by the law of June 16 [3], 1907, and by the composition and activity of the Third Duma, in particular by the law of December 3 [November 20], 1909,\* and (what is especially important) by the government's agrarian policy. If we agree that the *most recent* history of Russia, the history of 1905-09, has *proved* the fundamental, prime, national significance (national in the above sense) of the agrarian question in confirmation of a definite type of bourgeois evolution of Russia, then we can proceed further, otherwise we cannot.

By 1905 the bourgeois development of Russia had already matured sufficiently to demand the immediate break up of the antiquated superstructure—the antiquated mediæval system of land tenure (you understand, of course, why, of the *entire* superstructure, I take here land tenure alone). We are now living in the period of *this* break up, which the various classes of *bourgeois* Russia are *trying* to complete, to consummate in their own way: the peasants (plus the workers) by means of nationalisation (I am very glad we fully agree on the absolute absurdity of municipalisation. I have already quoted passages from *Theorien über den Mehrwert*<sup>1</sup> in favour of nationalisation in one of my works printed in part in Polish\*\*), the landlords (plus the old bourgeoisie, the Girondist bourgeoisie) by the method of November 22 [9], 1906, etc. Land nationalisation, *i.e.*, the break up of the old system of land tenure by the peasants, is the economic basis of the American way. The law of November 22 [9], 1906, *i.e.*, the break up of the old system of land tenure in the interests of the landlords, is the economic basis of the Prussian way. Our epoch, 1905-19?? is the epoch of the revolutionary and counter-revolutionary struggle between *these* ways, just as 1848-71 in Germany was a period of the revolutionary and counter-revolutionary struggle between two paths to unity (*i.e.*, to the solution of the *national* problem of the bourgeois development of Germany), the path through the Great German Republic and the path through

<sup>1</sup> *Theories of Surplus Value*—Ed. Eng. ed.

the Prussian monarchy *It was only in 1871* that the second path was *finally* (that is where my "completely" comes in) *victorious*. It was then that Liebknecht gave up boycotting the parliament. It was then that the dispute between the Lassalleans and the Eisenachers *died down*. It was then that the question of a general democratic revolution in Germany *died down too*—and Naumann, David and Co. started in the 'nineties (twenty years *later*<sup>1</sup>) to revive the corpse \*

In our country the struggle is *still* going on. Neither of the agrarian paths has won so far. In our country, in every crisis of our epoch (1905 1909 1917?), a "general democratic" movement of the "muzhik" *will arise*, is bound to arise, and to ignore it would be a fundamental error which, *in practice*, would lead to Menshevism, although *in theory* the dispute may be placed on a different plane. It is not I who "reduce" the dispute to "Menshevism," it is the *history* of our epoch that *reduces* to Menshevism the disregard of the proletariat for the national tasks of the bourgeois development of Russia, for this is precisely the *essence* of Menshevism.

*Nebenbei*.<sup>1</sup> Have you read, in Cherevanin's *Present Situation*, about the *opportunism* of the "classical presentation" of the question by the Bolsheviks\*\*? Read it!

*Ad 2)* I have really said almost all there is to be said about this. In Germany the support *by the workers* of the wishes of a "petty muzhik" to get *for himself* (i.e., the petty muzhik) the land of the big landlords—the *Junkers*—is *reactionary*. Isn't that so? Is that not true? In Russia in 1905 1909 1917? the *denial* of that support is *reactionary*. *Hic Rhodus hic salta*<sup>2</sup>. Here it is a question of either renouncing the entire agrarian programme and passing almost to Cadetism or of *recognising* the differences in principle between the presentation of the question in Germany and that in Russia, in principle—not in the sense that the epoch was non-capitalist in our country, but in the sense that these are two *altogether* different epochs of capitalism, differing in

<sup>1</sup> By the way—*Ed*

<sup>2</sup> Here is Rhodes, leap here!—*Ed*

principle the epoch *preceding* the final consolidation of the national path of capitalism, and the epoch *succeeding* such consolidation

I conclude for the time being I shall try to send you newspaper clippings on the subject of our discussion Write when you can spare time Warm greetings

Yours,

STARIK <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The Old Man — *Ed Eng ed*

## THE QUESTION OF THE (GENERAL) AGRARIAN POLICY OF THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT\*

THE character of the agrarian policy of the government has radically changed since the Revolution of 1905. Formerly, autocracy followed the line of Katkov and Pobedonostsev and tried to appear in the eyes of the masses of the people as standing "above classes," safeguarding the interests of the broad masses of the peasants, safeguarding them against losing their land and protecting them from ruin. Needless to say, this hypocritical "concern" for the muzhik in reality masked a purely feudal policy which the above mentioned "public men" of old pre-revolutionary Russia were carrying out with a stupid directness in all spheres of public and state life. Autocracy in those days relied entirely on the utter backwardness, benightedness and ignorance of the peasant masses. By posing as a champion of the "inalienability" of the peasants' allotments, as an advocate of the "village commune," autocracy, in the pre-revolutionary period, tried to rely on the economic immutability of Russia, on the deep political slumber of the masses of the peasant population. At that time the entire agrarian policy was a feudal aristocratic policy.\*\*

The Revolution of 1905 caused a change in the entire agrarian policy of the autocracy. Stolypin, punctiliously carrying out the dictates of the Council of the United Nobility,\*\*\* has decided, as he himself expressed it, to "put our stake on the strong."<sup>1</sup> This means that, after that mighty awakening of the proletariat and of the broad strata of the democratic peasantry which the Revolution of 1905 brought about in Russia, our government was no longer able to pose as a champion of the *weak*. The people, having succeeded in making the first (though as yet inadequate) breach

<sup>1</sup> Lenin refers to Stolypin's speech in the Third Duma on December 18 [5], 1908, "On the Peasants' Land Settlement Bill"—*Ed*

in the old feudal, state system of Russia, proved thereby that it had awakened to such an extent from its political slumber that the fairy tale about the government protecting the "village commune" and the "inalienability of the allotments," about the defence of the weak by the government standing above classes was finally discredited among the peasants

Until 1905 the government could entertain the hope that the thralldom and inertness of the entire mass of the peasants, who were incapable of ridding themselves of the age long political prejudices of slavery, patience and obedience, would serve as a prop for it. So long as the peasants remained obedient and down trodden, the government *could* pretend that it "put its stake on the weak," i.e., was taking care of the weak, although, in fact, it was concerned exclusively with the feudal landlords and the preservation of its own absolute power

After 1905, the old political prejudices turned out to be so deeply and so widely discredited that the government and the Council of the United Serf owners<sup>1</sup> saw that it was impossible to gamble any longer on the benightedness and the sheep-like obedience of the muzhik. The government saw that there *could be no peace* between it and the *masses* of the peasant population which it had ruined and reduced to complete destitution, ruin and starvation. It was this consciousness of the impossibility of "peace" with the peasants that caused the "Council of the United Serf owners" to change its policy. The Council decided to try at all costs to split the peasantry and to create out of it a stratum of "new landlords," well to do peasant proprietors, who would "conscientiously" protect *from the masses* the peace and security of the huge landlords' estates, which, after all, had suffered some what from the onslaught of the revolutionary masses in 1905 \*

Therefore, the change in the entire agrarian policy of the government after the revolution is not accidental by any means. On the contrary, from the *class* point of view, this change was a *necessity* for the government and for the "Council of the United Serf owners." The government could find no other way out. The gov

<sup>1</sup> i.e., The Council of the United Nobility—Ed

ernment saw that there could be no "peace" with the masses of the peasants, that the peasantry had awakened from its age long slumber of serfdom. The government had no alternative but to try by convulsive efforts to *split* the peasantry, no matter how much this might ruin the villages, to surrender the countryside to "plunder and exploitation" by the kulaks and the well to do muzhiks, and to place its reliance on the *alliance* between the feudal nobles and the "new landlords," i.e., the alliance with the rich peasant proprietors, with the peasant bourgeoisie.

Stolypin himself, who has served the "Council of the United Serf owners" faithfully and well and has carried out their policy, has said "Give me twenty years of quiet and I shall reform Russia." By "quiet" he meant the *quiet of a graveyard*, the quiet suffering of the countryside silently enduring unprecedented ruin and destitution like sheep. By "quiet" he meant the quiet of the *landlords* who would like to see the peasants utterly inert, down trodden, offering no protest, ready to starve peacefully and amiably, to give up their land, to abandon their villages, to be ruined, if only the landed gentry were comfortable and pleased. By reforming Russia, Stolypin meant a change that would leave in the villages only contented landlords, contented kulaks and blood suckers, and scattered, downtrodden, helpless and impotent farm labourers.

It is quite natural and intelligible that Stolypin, as a landlord, should desire with all his heart to have twenty years of this quiet of the graveyard for Russia. But we know now, we all see and feel now, that neither "reform" nor "quiet" has resulted from it, but famine, which has affected thirty million peasants,<sup>1</sup> an unparalleled (unparalleled even in long suffering Russia) intensification of destitution and ruin, and extremely great bitterness and ferment among the peasantry.

In order to understand the causes of the *failure* of the government's so called "Stolypin" agrarian policy, which the State Duma is invited once more to approve by sanctioning the budget (and

<sup>1</sup> This refers to the very bad crop failure in 1911, which involved twenty gubernias and oblasts of the eastern part of European Russia and Western Siberia with a population of thirty million people.—*Ed.*



which undoubtedly will be approved by the landlords' parties in the Duma), I shall dwell at somewhat greater length on the *two* principal, so to say, *trump cards* of our "new" agrarian policy

First, on the resettlement of the peasants, and, secondly, on the notorious *homesteads*

As regards resettlement, the Revolution of 1905, which revealed to the landlords the political awakening of the peasantry, forced them to "open" the safety valve a little, and instead of hampering migration as they had done before, to try to render the atmosphere less "tense" in Russia, to try to *pack off* as many *restless* peasants as possible to Siberia

Did the government achieve success? Did it achieve any *pacification* of the peasantry, any improvement in the peasants' conditions in Russia and in Siberia? Just the opposite. The government only brought about a new sharpening and worsening of the conditions of the peasants *both in Russia and in Siberia*

I shall prove this to you in a moment. In the explanatory memorandum of the Minister of Finance on the Finance Bill for 1913 we find the usual official optimism and praises of the "successes" of the government's policy

The settlers, we are told, transform the vacant regions into "civilised localities," the settlers are growing rich, improving their farms, and so on and so forth. The usual official panegyric. The old, old "*everything is all right*," "*all quiet on Shipka Hill*"<sup>1</sup>

The only pity is that the explanatory memorandum *completely* ignored the statistics of returned settlers!! A strange and significant silence!

Yes, gentlemen, the number of settlers increased after 1905, and reached an average of half a million a year. Yes, by 1908, the migration wave reached high water mark. 665,000 settlers in one year. But later the wave began *rapidly to recede*, and reached 189,000 in 1911. Is it not clear that the highly praised government "settlement" of the migrants has turned out to be *bluff*? Is it not

<sup>1</sup> This refers to the Russo-Turkish war in 1878-79. The Russians were stationed in Shipka, a hilly district in Bulgaria. In spite of the heavy losses suffered by the Russian troops the official news invariably reported "All quiet on Shipka Hill"—Ed. Eng. ed.

clear that only six years after the revolution the government is returning to the *broken trough*?<sup>1</sup>

And the statistics of the number of returned settlers—so prudently ignored by the Minister of Finance in his “explanatory” (or rather confusing) memorandum—these statistics reveal a *monstrous* increase in the number of returned settlers—*up to 30 or 40 per cent in 1910, and up to 60 per cent in 1911*. This gigantic wave of returning settlers reveals the desperate suffering ruin and destitution of the peasants who sold everything at home in order to go to Siberia, and who are now forced to come back from Siberia utterly ruined and pauperised.

This enormous stream of destitute returned settlers reveals with irrefutable clarity the *complete failure* of the government’s resettlement policy. To produce tables showing the improvement in the farms of the settlers who remained in Siberia for a long time (as was done in the explanatory memorandum on the estimates of the Resettlement Board) and to *hush up* the complete and final ruin of *tens of thousands* of returned settlers simply means distorting the figures! This means treating the Duma deputies to castles in Spain and to fairy tales about general well being, whereas in fact we observe ruin and destitution.

Gentlemen, the fact that the Minister of Finance’s explanatory memorandum conceals the figures of the returned settlers, their desperate, destitute condition, their utter ruin, signifies *desperate* attempts on the part of the government to *conceal the truth*. In vain. Truth will out! Truth will compel recognition. The destitution of the ruined peasants who *returned* to Russia, the destitution of the ruined old inhabitants of Siberia, will *compel* you to speak about them.

In order to explain graphically the conclusion I draw concerning the utter failure of the resettlement policy of the government I shall quote another opinion, that of an official, who for twenty seven years—*twenty seven years, gentlemen!*—served in the Forestry Department in Siberia, an official who has studied the

<sup>1</sup> From Pushkin’s fairy tale about the fisherman and the golden fish. “To return to the broken trough” means reverting to the original state of poverty and destitution.—*Ed Eng ed*

conditions of migration, an official who *was unable to bear* all the abominations that are committed in our Re settlement Department

This official is State Councillor *A I Komarov*, who, after serving for twenty seven years, could not but acknowledge that the notorious journey of Stolypin and Krivoshein, the Prime Minister and the Minister of Agriculture and Land Settlement respectively, to Siberia in 1910 was a "*buffoonery tour*"—such is literally the expression used by a State Councillor, civil servant of twenty seven years' standing!! This official *resigned the service*, he could not tolerate the deception of all Russia that was being practised by means of such "*buffoonery tours*," and he published a special pamphlet containing a truthful account of all the thefts and embezzlement of government funds, the utter absurdity, brutality and wastefulness of our re settlement policy

This pamphlet is entitled *The Truth About Re settlement* and was published in St Petersburg in the present year, 1913, price sixty kopeks—not dear, considering the wealth of revealing material it contains. As usual our government, in connection with re settlement affairs, as in all other "*affairs*" and "*branches of administration*," is exerting every effort to conceal the truth, and fears lest "*its dirty linen be washed in public*." The official, Komarov, had to *lie low* as long as he was in the service, he had to write his letters of exposure to the newspapers under an *assumed name* and the authorities tried to "*catch*" the correspondent. Not all officials get the opportunity to leave the service and publish pamphlets that reveal the truth! But one such pamphlet enables us to judge what rottenness, what an abomination of desolation generally, reigns in this "*dark realm*"

The official, *A I Komarov*, is not a revolutionary. Nothing of the sort. He himself tells us about his loyal hostility to the theories of both the Social Democrats and the Socialist Revolutionaries. No, he is an ordinary very loyal, Russian official, who would be quite satisfied with elementary, rudimentary honesty and decency. He is a man who is hostile to the Revolution of 1905 and ready to serve the counter revolutionary government.

It is all the more significant, therefore, that even such a man has left, has abandoned the service, shaking its dust from his feet. He could not stand the fact that our re settlement policy meant the "complete smashing of all that is called rational forestry" (P 138) He could not stand the "expropriation of the arable land of the old inhabitants" which leads to the "gradual impoverishment of the old inhabitants" (Pp 137 and 138) He could not stand "such" plunder, or rather devastation, of Siberian lands and forests by the state in comparison with which the "plunder of Pashkir lands in the days of old is a mere trifle" (P 3)

The following are the conclusions of that official

"Utter unpreparedness of the General Re settlement Board for carrying on the work on a large scale absolute lack of planning in the work and bad quality of the work allotment of plots with soil unsuitable for agriculture where there is no water at all or no drinking water" (P 137)

When the tide of migration rose, the officials were caught napping

"They divided up the state forest lands, which seemingly only yesterday were put into proper shape, into tiny plots took the first thing they set their eyes on, as long as they could find place for, get rid of those scores of emaciated people with tired faces who were hanging around the re settlement base and standing for hours in the ante chamber of the Re settlement Board" (P 11)

Here are a few examples The Kurinsky area is set apart for settlers This area consists of land that had been taken from the native races near the Altai salt works The natives are robbed The new settlers get salt water unfit for drinking purposes! The government ceaselessly wastes money on digging wells—but with out success The new settlers have to drive 7 and 8 (seven and eight!) versts for water!! (P 101)

The Vyezdnoy area in the upper reaches of the Mana River thirty families were settled there After seven hard years the new settlers finally became convinced that farming was impossible there Nearly all of them fled The few who remained engage in hunting and fishing (P 27)

The Chuno Angara region hundreds of plots are mapped out—900 plots, 460 plots, etc There are no settlers Impossible to live there Mountain ridges, marshes, undrinkable water

And now the official, A I Komarov, tells the *truth which is disagreeable* to the government about those returned settlers whom the Minister of Finance did not mention

"Many hundreds of thousands," he says about those ruined and destitute returned settlers "return as elements of a type" writes the official Komarov, "such as in the future revolution if such takes place is destined to play a terrible role" It is not those who have been farm labourers all their lives who return but men who only recently were property owners men who could never conceive of their being divorced from the land and these men, justly angry at the injury done them because they have been reduced to ruin, because of the failure to settle them—these men are a menace to any political system" (P 74)

Thus writes the official, Komarov, who is afraid of revolution Komarov is mistaken in thinking that only *landlord* "state systems" are possible In the best and most cultured states they manage to get along *even without* the landlords Russia could also manage without them to the advantage of the people

Komarov reveals the *ruin* of the old inhabitants "Failure of crops" and, to tell the truth, *famine*, arising from the plunder of the old inhabitants, began to visit even "Siberian Italy"—Minusinsk Uyezd Mr Komarov exposes the way in which the contractors rob the Treasury, the utter fictitiousness of the reports and plans drawn up by the officials, the worthlessness of their work such as the Ob Yenissei Canal, which swallowed up millions, the waste of *hundreds of millions of rubles*

All our re settlement schemes, states this godfearing modest official, are "*nothing but a long and nasty anecdote*" (P 134.)

Such is the *truth* concerning the *returned* settlers that has been hushed up by the Minister of Finance! Such in *reality* is the utter *failure* of our re settlement policy! Ruin and destitution *both* in Russia and in Siberia Plunder of lands, the utter *destruction of* forests, false reports and official mendacity and hypocrisy

Let us pass on to the question of the homesteads

On this question, too, the explanatory memorandum of the Minister of Finance gives us the same, general, meaningless official, hypocritical data (or rather alleged data) as on the question of migration

We are informed that by 1912 over one and a half million

households had definitely abandoned the village commune, that over a million of these households have been established as homesteads

*Not a single truthful word has been uttered anywhere in the government reports about the real state of the homesteads!!*

We know already, from the descriptions given of the new land settlements by honest observers (like the late Ivan Andreyevich Kononov) and from our own observations of the countryside and of peasant life, that there are *homestead peasants* of two altogether different categories. The government, by confusing these categories, by giving data of a general kind, is only deceiving the people.

One category of homestead peasants, an insignificant minority, are the well to do peasants, the kulaks, who even before the new land settlement schemes were introduced, lived very well. Such peasants, by leaving the village commune and buying up the allotments of the poor, are undoubtedly enriching themselves at other people's expense, still further ruining and enslaving the masses of the population. But, I repeat, there are *very few* homestead peasants of this type.

Another category of homestead peasants predominates, and predominates to an overwhelming degree, *viz.*, the ruined destitute peasants, who went to the homesteads out of sheer need, for they had nowhere else to go. These peasants say "Nowhere to go, then let us go to the homesteads." Starving and toiling on their beggarly farms, they clutch at the last straw for the sake of the resettlement grant, for the sake of the settlement loan. On these farms they suffer untold hardships, they sell all their grain in order to pay their instalment to the bank, they are always in debt, in a state of dire distress, they live like beggars, they are *driven* from the homesteads for *non payment of instalments* and they are finally transformed into homeless tramps.

Now, if instead of treating us to meaningless pictures of fictitious prosperity the official statistics had truthfully informed us of the number of these *destitute homestead peasants* who are living in dugouts, herding together with their cattle, starving, with sick and

ragged children—then we would hear the “*truth about the homesteads*”

But the point is that the government does its utmost to conceal this truth about the homesteads. Independent, detached observers of peasant life are prosecuted and deported from the villages. Peasants writing to the newspapers come up against tyranny, oppression and persecution by the authorities and the police, of a nature unparalleled even in Russia.

A handful of rich homestead peasants are represented as masses of thriving peasants! The official lie about the kulaks is represented as the truth about the countryside! But the government will not succeed in concealing the truth. The attempts of the government to conceal the truth about the ruined and starving countryside only call forth legitimate *bitterness* and *rage* among the peasants. The fact that tens of millions of peasants are starving, as was also the case last year and the year before, reveals better than any long discussion the mendacity and hypocrisy of the fairy tales about the beneficial influence of the homesteads. This fact shows most clearly that *even after* the change in the government's agrarian policy, *and after* the notorious Stolypin reforms, the countryside is just as overwhelmed by oppression, exploitation, destitution, lack of human rights as it was under serfdom. The “new” agrarian policy of the Council of the United Nobility did not affect the *old* serf owners or mitigate the oppression exercised through their huge thousand and ten thousand *dessiatin* estates. The “new” agrarian policy enriched the *old* landlords and a handful of the peasant bourgeoisie, and ruined the masses of the peasants to a still greater extent.

“We put our stake on the strong,” exclaimed the late Stolypin in explanation and justification of his agrarian policy. These words are well worth noting and remembering as extraordinarily truthful, exceptionally truthful words for a minister. These peasants well understood and learned to their own cost the truthfulness of these words, which mean that the *new* laws and the *new* agrarian policy were laws for the *rich* and made by the *rich*, a policy for the *rich* and carried out by the *rich*. The peasants understood the “simple game,” *viz.*, that the master class Duma makes laws for the master

class—that the government is the instrument of the will and the instrument of the rule of the feudal landlords over Russia

If Stolypin wanted to teach *this* to the peasants by means of his “famous” (infamous) dictum “We put our stake on the strong,” we are sure he has found and will find apt pupils among the masses of the ruined and embittered who, having learned *on whom* the government places its stake, will understand so much the better *on whom they themselves* should place their stake on the working class and on its struggle for freedom

In order not to make unsupported statements, I shall quote a few examples from real life given by so able an observer, one so boundlessly devoted to his work, as Ivan Andreyevich Konovalov (Ivan Konovalov, *Sketches of the Modern Village*, St Petersburg, 1913 Price 1 ruble, 50 kopeks In the quotations the pages are indicated )

In Liven Uyezd, Orel Gubernia, four estates have been divided into homesteads that of Grand Duke Andrey Vladimirovich—5,000 dessiatins, of Polyakov—900 dessiatins, of Nabokov—400 dessiatins, of Korf—600 dessiatins The total is about 7,000 dessiatins The size of the homesteads is fixed at 9 dessiatins each and only in exceptional cases at 12 dessiatins Thus, there are in all a little over 600 homesteads

In order to explain the significance of these figures more graphically, I shall quote the official statistics of 1905 referring to Orel Gubernia Five nobles in this gubernia owned 143,446 dessiatins, *i e*, an average of 28,000 dessiatins each It is obvious that such monstrously big estates are not wholly cultivated by the owners, they only serve for the oppression and enslavement of the peasants The number of former landlords' peasants in Orel Gubernia in 1905 with holdings not exceeding 5 dessiatins per farm was 44,500, owning a total of 173,000 dessiatins of land The landlord owns 28 000 dessiatins and the “landlord's” muzhik of the poorer class—4 dessiatins

In 1905, the number of nobles in Orel Gubernia owning 500 dessiatins of land and over was 378, with a total of 592,000 dessiatins of land, *i e*, an average of over 1,500 dessiatins each, while



the number of "former landlords'" peasants in Orel Gubernia having up to 7 dessiatins per household was 124 000, with a total of 647,000 dessiatins, i.e., an average of 5 *dessiatins* per household

One can judge by this to what extent the Orel peasants are oppressed by the feudal estates and what a drop in the ocean of misery and destitution were the *four* estates in Liven Uyezd that were divided into homesteads. But how do the homestead peasants live on their 9 *dessiatin* plots?

The land has been valued at 220 rubles per *dessiatin*. They have to pay 118 rubles and 80 kopeks per annum (i.e., about 20 rubles per *dessiatin* of sown area). A poor peasant is incapable of paying so much. He lets a part of the land cheaply if only to get some ready cash. He sells all his grain to pay the instalment due to the bank. He has nothing left, either for seed or for food. He borrows, enslaves himself again. He has only one horse, he has sold his cow. The implements are old. No use even to think of improving the farm. "The kiddies have already forgotten the colour, let alone the taste, of milk" (P. 198). Falling into arrears with his instalment this sort of farmer is driven off his plot and his ruin is then complete.

In his explanatory memorandum, the Minister of Finance complacently tried to gloss over this ruin of the peasants by the new land settlement, or rather land unsettlement.

On page 57 of the second part of the explanatory memorandum the Minister gives official figures of the number of peasants who had sold their land by the end of 1911. Their number is 385,407 *families*.

And the Minister "*consoles*" us by saying the number of buyers (362,840) "*is very close to the number of sellers*" (385,407). For each seller we get on an average 3.9 *dessiatins*, for each buyer—4.2 *dessiatins*. (P. 58 of the explanatory memorandum.)

What is there reassuring in this? In the first place, even these official figures show that the number of buyers is *less* than the number of sellers. This means that the ruin and destitution of the countryside is increasing. And secondly, who does not know that

the buyers of allotments evade the law, which forbids the purchase of land above a small number of dessiatins,\* by buying in the name of the wife, of relations, or of some other person? Who does not know that the selling of land under the guise of various other transactions, such as a lease, etc., is very widely practised by the peasants out of sheer necessity. Read, for instance, the works of the semi Cadet, semi Octobrist Prince Obolensky in *Russkaya Mysl*,<sup>1</sup> and you will see that even this landlord, who is thoroughly imbued with the views of his class, admits the fact that the allotments are bought up to an *enormous* extent by the rich, and that these purchases are *masked* by means of evasions of the law in thousands of different ways!

No, gentlemen! The "new" agrarian policy of the government and the nobles was *all* the honourable nobles could produce, it left their property and their revenues intact and often even increased their revenues by *inflating* the price of the land for sale and by the thousands of favours the Peasants' Bank extends to the nobles.

And these nobles' "*all*" proved to be *nothing*. The countryside is more ruined, more *embittered*. The bitterness of feeling in the villages is terrible. What is termed "hooliganism" is due mainly to the incredible bitterness of feeling prevailing among the peasants and to the *rudimentary* forms of *their protest*. \*\* No persecution, no increasing of punishments will allay this bitterness and stop this protest of millions of hungry peasants who are now being ruined by the "re distribution" of the land with unprecedented rapidity, roughness and brutality.

No, the nobles' or the Stolypin agrarian policy is not the way out, it is only a very painful *approach* towards a new *solution* of the agrarian problem in Russia. What this solution should be is shown indirectly even by the fate of Ireland where, in spite of a thousand delays, hindrances and obstacles placed in the way by the landlords, the land has after all passed into the hands of the farmers.

The essence of the agrarian problem in Russia is most strikingly

<sup>1</sup> *Russian Thought*—Ed Eng ed

revealed by the figures of the big landlord estates. These figures are given in the official government statistics of 1905, and anyone who is seriously concerned about the fate of the Russian peasantry and the state of affairs in the entire field of politics of our country should study them with great attention.

Let us consider the big landlord estates in European Russia. 27,833 landlords own over 500 dessiatins each, with a total of 62,000,000 *dessiatins of land*!! Adding to these the land owned by the imperial family and the enormous estates of the manufacturers in the Urals, we get 70,000,000 dessiatins owned by less than 30,000 landlords. This gives on an average over 2,000 dessiatins to each big landlord. The size the biggest estates attain in Russia is seen from the fact that 699 landlords own more than 10,000 dessiatins each, with a total of 20,798,504 dessiatins. On an average these magnates possess almost 30,000 (29,754) dessiatins each!!

It is not easy to find in Europe, or even in the entire world, another country where big feudal landownership has been preserved on such a monstrous scale.

And the most important point is that capitalist farming, *i.e.*, the cultivation of the soil by hired labourers with the implements and tools of the owners, is being conducted only on a part of these lands. For the most part, farming is being conducted on *feudal* lines, *i.e.*, the landlords enslave the peasants as they did one hundred, three hundred, and five hundred years ago, forcing the peasants to cultivate the landlords' land with the *peasants'* horses, with the *peasants'* implements.

This is not capitalism. This is not the European method of farming. Messieurs Rights and Octobrists, take note of this, you who are boasting of your desire to "Europeanise" (*i.e.*, re-fashion in the European way) agriculture in Russia! No, this is not European at all. This is the *old Chinese way*. This is the *Turkish way*. This is the *feudal way*.

This is not up to date farming, it is land usury. It is the old, old enslavement. The poor peasant, who even in the best year remains a pauper and half starved, who owns a weak, starving horse and

old, miserable, wretched implements, is becoming the slave of the landlord, of the "*barin*,"<sup>1</sup> because he, the muzhik, has no alternative.

The "*barin*" will neither lease his land, nor give right of way, nor watering places for animals, nor meadows, nor timber, unless the peasant enslaves himself. If a peasant is caught "illegally" felling wood in the forest, what happens? He is beaten up by the foresters, Circassians, etc., and then the "*barin*," who in the Duma delivers fervent speeches on the progress of our agriculture and on the necessity of copying Europe—this very *barin* offers the following alternative to the beaten muzhik: either go to prison or cultivate, plough, sow and harvest two or three dessiatins! The same thing happens when the peasants' cattle trespass on the landlords' estates. The same for the winter loan of grain. The same for the use of meadows and pastures, and so on without end.

This is not big landlord farming. It is the *enslavement* of the muzhik. It is the *feudal* exploitation of millions of impoverished peasants by means of estates of thousands of dessiatins, the estates of the landlords who have been squeezing and stifling the muzhik on all sides.

The homesteads are helping out a handful of rich peasants. But the masses continue to starve as heretofore. Why is it, honourable landlords, that Europe has not known famine for a long time? Why is it that terrible famines, such as that which raged in our country in 1910-11, occurred there only under serfdom?

Because in Europe there is no serf bondage. There are rich and middle peasants and there are labourers in Europe, but not millions of utterly ruined, destitute peasants, driven to madness by perennial suffering and hard labour, disfranchised, down-trodden, dependent on the "*barin*."

What is to be done? What is the way out?

There is only one way out: the liberation of the countryside from the oppression of these feudal latifundia, the transfer of these *seventy million* dessiatins of land from the landlords to the

<sup>1</sup> The master, the lord.—Ed. Eng. ed.

peasants, a transfer that must be effected without any compensation

Only such a solution can make Russia really resemble a European country. Only such a solution will enable the millions of Russian peasants to breathe freely and recover. Only such a solution will make it possible to transform Russia from a country of perennially starving, destitute peasants, crushed by bondage to the landlord, into a country of "European progress"—from a country of illiterate people into a literate country—from a country of backwardness and hopeless stagnation into a country capable of developing and going forward—from a disfranchised country, a country of slaves, into a free country.

And the party of the working class, knowing that without free, democratic institutions there is and there can be no road to socialism, points, as a way out of the blind alley into which the government with its agrarian policy has again led Russia, to the free transfer of all the landlords' estates to the peasants, to the winning of full political liberty by a new revolution.

June 1913

## THE AGRARIAN QUESTION AND THE PRESENT STATE OF RUSSIA\*

### NOTES OF A PUBLICIST

Two interesting articles on the above subject have appeared in magazines recently. One in the liquidators' *Nasha Zarya* (1913, by N Rozhkov), the other in the Right Cadets' *Russkaya Mysl* (1913, No 8, by Y Y Polferov). There is no doubt that the two authors wrote without knowing of each other, they started out from totally different premises.

And yet there is a striking similarity between these two articles. One can clearly observe, and this invests both articles with special importance, the kinship in principle between the ideas of the liberal labour politicians and the ideas of the counter-revolutionary liberal bourgeois.

The material used by N Rozhkov is exactly the same as that used by Mr Polferov, except that the latter's material is more extensive. Capitalism began to grow in Russian agriculture after the 1905 Revolution. The prices of grain and land are rising, imports of agricultural machines and fertilizers are increasing, so also is the home production of both. The small credit institutions are growing, the number of persons leaving the commune and establishing homesteads is growing. Wages are rising (44.2 per cent increase from 1890 to 1910, we are informed by N Rozhkov, who forgets the increase in the cost of living during that period!). Commercial cattle breeding, dairy farming, grass growing and instruction on agricultural matters are on the increase.

All this is very interesting, no doubt. From the standpoint of Marxism, there can be no doubt that it is impossible to stop the growth of capitalism. Had the authors merely explained this by new data, they would have deserved only thanks.

But the whole point is the appraisal of the data and the con

clusions drawn from them In this connection N Rozhkov displays a rashness that is almost touching

"Feudal landlord economy has become transformed into bourgeois capitalist economy the transition to the bourgeois system in agriculture is an accomplished fact which is beyond doubt The agrarian problem in its previous form is no longer on the order of the day in Russia We must not attempt to galvanise the corpse the agrarian problem in its old form"

The conclusions, as the reader will perceive, are quite clear and quite liquidationist The editors of the liquidationist magazine (as is the long established custom in commercial, unprincipled magazines) make a reservation

"There is much in this with which we do not agree we do not deem it possible to assert as *positively* as does N Rozhkov that Russia will follow precisely the path mapped out by the law of November 22 [9] June 27 [14]"<sup>1</sup>

The liquidators are "not as positive" as N Rozhkov! What a profound attitude on principle!

N Rozhkov in his article proves over and over again that he has *learned by rote* a number of Marxian propositions, but that he *has not understood them* That is why they so easily "slipped out" of his head!

The capitalist development of agriculture in Russia proceeded also in 1861-1904. All the symptoms now indicated by Rozhkov and Polferov existed even at that time The development of capitalism did not prevent the *bourgeois democratic* crisis in 1905, but prepared and intensified it Why? Because the old, natural, semi-serf economy was undermined, but the *conditions necessary for a new*, bourgeois economy had not been created Hence the extraordinary acuteness of the crisis of 1905

Rozhkov says that the ground for *such* crises has disappeared Speaking in the abstract, *i.e.*, speaking of capitalism in general, and *not* of Russia, *not* of 1913, this, of course, is possible Need less to say, Marxists admit the existence of a bourgeois democratic agrarian problem only under special conditions (*not* always and *not* everywhere).

<sup>1</sup> See note to page 238 \*—Ed Eng ed

But Rozhkov fails even to understand what propositions he must prove if he wants to confirm his *concrete* conclusion

The peasants are dissatisfied with their position? "But nowhere are the peasants satisfied with their position," writes Rozhkov

To compare and to identify the dissatisfaction of West European peasants, who under the entirely bourgeois regime of their village, as well as of their juridical status, form a "party of order,"\* to compare and identify this with the *famines* in Russia, with the *complete* degradation of the village based on the system of orders, with the *complete* serf regime in the domain of law, etc., is simply childish and ridiculous Rozhkov does not see the wood for the trees

He writes Capitalism is growing, the *barshchina* (*otraboiki*) system is declining

"The overwhelming majority of the landlords," writes the liberal Polferov, "are more and more adopting the deposit system and the share cropping system, which is exclusively the result of the financial and land needs of the peasant!"

The liberal writing in *Russkaya Mysl* is a less naïve optimist than the ex Marxist who writes in the liquidationist *Nasha Zarya*

N Rozhkov did not even touch upon the figures showing the degree to which share cropping, *otraboiki*, *barshchina* and bondage are practised in the *present day* countryside With remarkable thoughtlessness, Rozhkov ignored the fact that these are *still* very widely practised And from this follows that the *bourgeois democratic* crisis has become still more acute "Don't galvanise the corpse," writes the liquidator, echoing in everything the liberal, who in *different* words declares the demands of 1905 to be a "corpse"

To this we replied Markov and Purishkevich<sup>1</sup> are not corpses The economy which produced them and is still producing them is not dead The struggle against this class is the live task of live workers, with a live understanding of their class aims

The renunciation of this task is a sign of the *putrefaction* of the liquidators, not all of whom talk "as positively" as Rozhkov, but

<sup>1</sup> Extreme reactionary leaders of the Black Hundreds—Ed Eng ed



all of whom forget, or gloss over, the struggle against agrarian (especially landowning) Purishkevichism and political Purishkevichism

The domination of Purishkevichism in our life is the reverse side of the same medal, which in the rural districts is called *otra boiki*, bondage, *barshchina*, serfdom, the absence of the most elementary, general conditions of bourgeois farming. If the million are masters (the Guchkovs and Co.) are grumbling at the top, it signifies that the conditions of millions of small proprietors (peasants) below are altogether impossible.

In making it their task to attack the foundations of Purishkevichism, the workers do not in the least deviate from "their" tasks in order to galvanise something that is alien to them. No. They *thereby* make clear to *themselves* the democratic tasks of *their* struggle, of their class, they thereby teach the broad masses democracy and the A B C of socialism. For only "royal Prussian socialism" (as Marx said of Schweitzer\*) is capable of leaving in the shade the feudal autocracy of Purishkevichism in general and landowning Purishkevichism in particular.

Without noticing it himself, Rozhkov slipped to the level of Polferov, who says that "additional plots of land alone" would not have been the "salvation" without intensification! As if intensification would not have proceeded a hundred times more rapidly *owing to the removal* of Purishkevichism! As if we are discussing only the peasants—whether to give them "additional land" or not—and not the *whole* people, the *whole* development of capitalism, which is being mutilated and retarded by Purishkevichism.

Rozhkov blurted out the *essence* of liquidationism by indicating the *connection* between the all embracing slogan of "freedom of association" (compare the presentation of this slogan in Tulyakov's *liberal* speech with Badayev's *Marxian* speech in the State Duma on November 5 [October 23], 1913\*\*)—by indicating the connection between this slogan and *reconciliation* with the present position of the agrarian problem.

This connection is an objective fact, no "reservations" of *Nasha Zarya* will remove it.

Give up thinking of the whole people, of Purishkevichism in our whole life, of peasant famines, of *barshchina*, of serfdom, fight for "legality," for "freedom of association" as a reform—such are the *ideas* which the *bourgeoisie* is instilling in the workers. Being unconscious of this, Rozhkov and the liquidators are merely following in the wake of the *bourgeoisie*.

On the other hand, our opinion is that the proletariat, the foremost representative of all the toiling masses, cannot advance to its own emancipation except by waging an all-sided struggle against Purishkevichism for the sake and in the interests of the struggle against the *bourgeoisie*—such are the ideas which distinguish the Marxist from the liberal labour politician.

November 1913

## **PART IV**

### **THE NATIONAL QUESTION IN THE PERIOD 1908 1914**



## ON THE RIGHT OF NATIONS TO SELF DETERMINATION \*

POINT nine of the programme of the Russian Marxists\*\* which refers to the right of nations to self determination has given rise lately (as we have already pointed out in *Prosveshcheniye*<sup>1</sup>) to a regular crusade of the opportunists. The Russian liquidator, Semkovsky, in the St. Petersburg liquidationist newspaper, the Bundist Liebmann and the Ukrainian National Socialist Yurkevich severely came down upon this point in their respective journals, and treated it with an air of supreme contempt. There is no doubt that this "twelve languages invasion"<sup>2</sup> of opportunism into our Marxian programme is closely connected with the modern nationalistic vacillations in general. Hence, we think that a detailed analysis of the question raised is opportune. We shall only observe that none of the above mentioned opportunists has adduced a single independent argument, all of them only repeat what was said by Rosa Luxemburg in her long Polish article of 1908-09, "The National Question and Autonomy." In our exposition we shall deal mainly with the "original" arguments of this last named author.

### I WHAT IS SELF DETERMINATION OF NATIONS?

Naturally, this question arises first of all when attempts are made to consider so-called self determination in a Marxian way. What should be understood by it? Are we to look for an answer in juridical definitions deduced from all sorts of "general concepts" of law? Or should we seek an answer in the historical and economic study of the national movements?

<sup>1</sup> Lenin refers to his article "Critical Notes on the National Question" (See *Collected Works*, Russian ed., Vol. XVII.)—Ed

<sup>2</sup> This expression is used in reference to Napoleon's invasion of Russia in 1812.—Ed Eng. ed

No wonder Messieurs the Semkovskys, Liebmans and Yurkeviches did not even think of raising this question, but limited themselves merely to sneering about the "obscurity" of the Marxian programme, apparently not knowing in their simplicity that self-determination of nations is dealt with not only in the Russian programme of 1903, but also in the resolution of the London International Congress of 1896 (I shall deal with this in detail in the proper place<sup>1</sup>) Far more remarkable is the fact that Rosa Luxemburg, who declaims a great deal about the alleged abstract and metaphysical nature of that point, herself fell victim to the sin of abstraction and metaphysics It is Rosa Luxemburg herself who is continually falling into the rut of general disquisitions on self-determination (including the very amusing speculation on the question of how the will of the nation is to be ascertained) without anywhere clearly and precisely raising the question as to whether the essence of the matter lies in the juridical definition or in the experience of the national movements of the whole world

The precise formulation of this question, which a Marxist can not avoid, would at once have undermined nine tenths of Rosa Luxemburg's arguments National movements did not first arise in Russia, nor are they peculiar to Russia alone Throughout the world, the period of the final victory of capitalism over feudalism was linked up with national movements The economic basis of these movements is that in order to achieve complete victory for commodity production the bourgeoisie must capture the home market, must have politically united territories with a population speaking the same language, while all obstacles to the development of this language and to its consolidation in literature are removed Language is the most important means of human intercourse, unity of language and unimpeded development are the most important conditions of a genuinely free and extensive commercial turnover corresponding to modern capitalism, of a free and broad grouping of the population in all their separate classes, finally, they are a condition for the close connection between the

<sup>1</sup> See part VII of this article—Ed.

market and each and every proprietor and petty proprietor, seller and buyer

The formation of *national states*, under which these requirements of modern capitalism are best satisfied, is therefore the tendency of every national movement. The deepest economic factors urge towards this goal, and for the whole of Western Europe, nay, for the entire civilised world, the *typical*, normal state for the capitalist period is, therefore, the national state.

Consequently, if we want to understand the meaning of self determination of nations without juggling with legal definitions, without "inventing" abstract definitions, but examining the historical and economic conditions of the national movements, we shall inevitably reach the conclusion that self determination of nations means the political separation of these nations from other national bodies, the formation of an independent national state.

Later on, we shall see still other reasons why it would be incorrect to understand the right to self determination to mean anything but the right to separate state existence. At present, we must deal with Rosa Luxemburg's efforts to "dismiss" the unavoidable conclusion concerning the deep economic foundations underlying the strivings for a national state.

Rosa Luxemburg is well acquainted with Kautsky's pamphlet *Nationality and Internationality* (Supplement to *Die Neue Zeit*, No 1, 1907-08, Russian translation in the magazine *Nauchnaya Mysl*,<sup>1</sup> Riga, 1910). She knows that Kautsky, after carefully analysing the question of the national state in chapter four of that pamphlet, arrived at the conclusion that Otto Bauer "*underestimates the force of the urge to create a national state*" (P. 23 of the cited pamphlet). Rosa Luxemburg herself quotes the following words of Kautsky: "The national state is the form of state *which corresponds most to present day conditions*" (*i.e.*, capitalist, civilised, economically progressive conditions, as distinguished from mediæval, pre capitalist, etc.), "it is the form in which it can best fulfil its tasks" (*i.e.*, the tasks of the freest, widest and

<sup>1</sup> *Scientific Thought*—Ed. Eng. ed.

speediest development of capitalism) We must add to this a still more precise concluding remark by Kautsky heterogeneous nation states (the so called nationality states as distinguished from national states) are "always states whose internal constitution has for some reason or other remained abnormal or underdeveloped" Needless to say, Kautsky speaks of abnormality exclusively in the sense of lack of conformity with what is best adapted to the requirements of developing capitalism

The question now is, how did Rosa Luxemburg treat Kautsky's historical economic conclusions on this point? Are they right or wrong? Is Kautsky right in his historical economic theory, or is Bauer, whose theory has a psychological basis?\* What is the connection between the undoubted "national opportunism" of Bauer, his defence of cultural national autonomy, his nationalistic enthusiasm ("in some instances the emphasis on the national aspect," as Kautsky put it), his "enormous exaggeration of the national aspect and complete neglect of the international aspect" (Kautsky)—and his underestimation of the urge to create a national state?

Rosa Luxemburg failed even to raise this question She failed to notice this connection She did not weigh the *totality* of Bauer's theoretical views She completely failed to contrast the historical economic with the psychological theories in the national question She confined herself to the following remarks in opposition to Kautsky

"This 'best' national state is only an abstraction, which can easily be developed and defended theoretically, but which does not correspond to reality" (*Przegląd Socjal Demokratyczny*,<sup>2</sup> 1908, No 6, p 499)

And in corroboration of this bold statement there follow arguments to the effect that the "right to self determination" of small nations is rendered illusory by the development of the great capitalist powers and by imperialism

"Can one seriously speak," exclaims Rosa Luxemburg, "about the 'self determination' of formally independent Montenegrins, Bulgarians, Rumanians, Serbs, Greeks, partly even the Swiss, whose independence is itself

<sup>2</sup> *Social Democratic Review*—Ed



a result of the political struggle and the diplomatic game of the 'Concert of Europe'?" 1 (P 500)

The state that best suits the conditions is "not a national state, as Kautsky believes, but a predatory state" Several score of figures are quoted relating to the size of British, French and other colonies

Reading such arguments one cannot help marvelling at how the author contrived not to understand *what's what*! To teach Kautsky with a serious mien that small states are economically dependent on big ones, that a struggle is going on between the bourgeois states over the predatory suppression of other nations, that imperialism and colonies exist—savours of ridiculously childish attempts at cleverness, for all this is altogether irrelevant Not only small states, but even Russia, for example, is economically entirely dependent on the power of the imperialist finance capital of the "rich" bourgeois countries Not only the miniature Balkan states, but even America in the nineteenth century was economically a colony of Europe, as Marx pointed out in *Capital* Kautsky, and every Marxist, knows this very well, of course, but it has nothing whatever to do with the question of the national movements and the national state

Rosa Luxemburg has substituted the question of the economic independence of states for the question of the political self determination of nations in bourgeois society, and of their independence as states This is as intelligent as if someone in discussing the demand in the programme for the supremacy of parliament, *i.e.*, the assembly of people's representatives in a bourgeois state, were to expound the perfectly correct idea of the supremacy of big capital under any regime in a bourgeois country

There is no doubt that the greater part of Asia, the most populous part of the world, consists of either colonies of the "Great Powers" or of states which are extremely dependent and oppressed as nations But does this commonly known circumstance in any way shake the undoubted fact that in Asia itself the conditions for the most complete development of commodity production, for the freest, widest and most rapid growth of capitalism, have been created only in Japan, *i.e.*, only in an independent national state?

This state is a bourgeois state, therefore, it itself has begun to oppress other nations and enslave colonies, we do not know whether Asia will have time before the downfall of capitalism to become crystallised into a system of independent national states, like Europe. But it remains undisputed that capitalism, having awakened Asia, has called forth national movements everywhere in Asia too, that the tendency of these movements is towards the creation of national states in Asia, that the best conditions for the development of capitalism are secured precisely by such states. The example of Asia speaks in *favour* of Kautsky and *against* Rosa Luxemburg.

The example of the Balkan states also speaks against her, for everyone can see now that the best conditions for the development of capitalism in the Balkans are created precisely in proportion to the creation of independent national states in that peninsula.

Therefore, Rosa Luxemburg notwithstanding, the example of the whole of progressive, civilised mankind, the example of the Balkans and the example of Asia prove that Kautsky's propositions are absolutely correct: the national state is the rule and the "norm" of capitalism, a heterogeneous nation state represents backwardness or is an exception. From the standpoint of national relations, the best conditions for the development of capitalism are presented, undoubtedly, by the national state. This does not mean, of course, that such a state could avoid the exploitation and oppression of nations on the basis of bourgeois relations. It only means that the Marxists cannot ignore the powerful *economic* factors that give rise to the aspiration to create national states. It means that "self-determination of nations" in the programme of the Marxists *cannot*, from a historical economic point of view, have any other meaning than political self-determination, political independence, the formation of a national state.

On what conditions the bourgeois democratic demand for a "national state" is to be supported from a Marxian, *i.e.*, class proletarian, point of view will be dealt with in detail later on. At present we confine ourselves to the definition of the concept "self-determination" and must only note that Rosa Luxemburg *knows* the content of the concept ("national state"), whereas her oppor-

tunist partisans, the Liebmanns, the Samkovskys, the Yurkeviches *do not even know that!*

## II THE CONCRETE HISTORICAL PRESENTATION OF THE QUESTION

The categorical demand of Marxian theory in examining any social question is that it be placed within *definite* historical limits, and if it refers to one country (e.g., the national programme for a given country), that the concrete peculiarities that distinguish that country from others within the same political epoch be taken into account

What does this categorical demand of Marxism signify when applied to our question?

First of all, it signifies the necessity of strictly distinguishing two epochs of capitalism radically differing from each other from the point of view of the national movement. On the one hand, the epoch of the downfall of feudalism and absolutism, the epoch of the formation of bourgeois democratic society and state, when the national movements for the first time become mass movements and in one way or another *all* classes of the population are drawn into politics by means of the press, participation in representative institutions, etc. On the other hand, we have an epoch of definitely crystallised capitalist states with a long established constitutional regime, with a strongly developed antagonism between the proletariat and the bourgeoisie—an epoch that may be called the eve of the downfall of capitalism.

The typical traits of the first epoch are the awakening of the national movements and the drawing of the peasants, the most numerous and the most sluggish section of the population, into these movements, in connection with the struggle for political liberty in general and for national rights in particular. The typical traits of the second epoch are the absence of mass bourgeois democratic movements, when developed capitalism, while more and more bringing together and interweaving the nations that have already been fully drawn into commercial intercourse, puts in the forefront the antagonism between internationally united capital and the international labour movement.

Of course the two epochs are not separated from each other by

a wall, they are connected by numerous transitional links, while the various countries are also distinguished by the rapidity of national development, by the national composition and distribution of the population, and so forth. It is impossible to begin drawing up the national programme of the Marxists of a given country without taking into account all these general historical and concrete state conditions.

And it is just here that we come up against the weakest point in the arguments of Rosa Luxemburg. With extraordinary zeal she embellishes her article with a collection of "strong" words against point nine of our programme, declaring it to be "sweeping," "a platitude," "a metaphysical phrase," and so on *ad infinitum*. It would be natural to expect that an author who so excellently condemns metaphysics (in the Marxian sense, i.e., anti-dialectics) and empty abstractions would give us a specimen of concrete historical reasoning on the question. We are dealing with the national programme of the Marxists of a definite country—Russia, of a definite epoch—the beginning of the twentieth century. But does Rosa Luxemburg raise the question as to *what historical epoch* Russia is passing through, as to *what are the concrete peculiarities* of the national question and the national movements of that *particular* country in that *particular* epoch?

*No! She says absolutely nothing about it!* In her work you will not find even the shadow of an analysis of how the national question stands in *Russia* in the present historical epoch, and what the peculiarities of *Russia* in this particular respect are!

We are told that the national question is raised differently in the Balkans than in Ireland, that Marx estimated the Polish and Czech national movements in the concrete conditions of 1848 in this way (a page of excerpts from Marx), that Engels estimated the struggle of the forest cantons of Switzerland against Austria and the battle of Morgarten which took place in 1315 in that way (a page of quotations from Engels with appropriate commentaries by Kautsky), that Lassalle regarded the peasant war in Germany of the sixteenth century as reactionary, etc.

It cannot be said that these remarks and quotations are remarkable for their novelty, but, at all events, it is interesting for the

reader to recall again and again precisely how Marx, Engels and Lassalle approached the analysis of concrete historical questions of individual countries. And reading over the instructive quotations from Marx and Engels one can see with particular clarity in what a ridiculous position Rosa Luxemburg has placed herself. Eloquent and angrily she preaches the need for a concrete historical analysis of the national question in various countries at various periods, but makes not the *slightest* attempt to determine through *what* historical stage in the development of capitalism Russia is passing at the beginning of the twentieth century, what the peculiarities of the national question in this country are. Rosa Luxemburg gives examples of how *others* treated the question in a Marxian fashion, as if she were thereby deliberately stressing how often good intentions pave the road to hell, how often good counsels cover up unwillingness or inability to make use of these counsels in practice.

Here is one of her instructive comparisons. In protesting against the slogan of the independence of Poland, Rosa Luxemburg refers to her work of 1893, in which she demonstrated the rapid "industrial development of Poland" and the sale of the latter's manufactured goods in Russia. Needless to say, no conclusion whatever can be drawn from this on the question of the *right* to self determination, it only proves the disappearance of the old, aristocratic Poland, etc. But Rosa Luxemburg imperceptibly passes on to the conclusion that among the factors uniting Russia and Poland the purely economic factors of modern capitalist relations now prevail.

Then our Rosa passes on to the question of autonomy, and though her article is entitled "The National Question and Autonomy," *in general*, she begins to prove that the kingdom of Poland has an *exceptional* right to autonomy. (See on this question *Prosveshcheniye*, 1913, No. 12<sup>1</sup>.) In order to support the right of Poland to autonomy, Rosa Luxemburg evidently judges the state system of Russia by its economic and political and sociological characteristics and everyday life—by the totality of traits, which

<sup>1</sup> Lenin refers to his article "Critical Notes on the National Question" (See *Collected Works*, Russian ed., Vol. XVII.)—Ed.

as a whole produce the concept "Asiatic despotism" (*Przegląd*,<sup>1</sup> No 12, p 137)

It is common knowledge that such a state system possesses great stability in those cases where utterly patriarchal pre-capitalist traits and an insignificant development of commodity production and class differentiation predominate in the economic system. If, however, in a country where the state system is distinguished for its sharply defined pre-capitalist character, there is a nationally delimited region with a rapidly developing capitalism, then the more rapidly that capitalism develops, the greater the antagonism between it and the pre-capitalist state system, the more probable it is that the more progressive region—which is connected with the whole by ties that are not "modern capitalistic," but "Asiatic despotism"—will separate from the whole.

Thus, Rosa Luxemburg has failed to complete her argument even on the question of the social structure of the government in Russia in relation to bourgeois Poland, and she does not even raise the question of the concrete historical peculiarities of the national movements in Russia.

This question we must deal with.

### III THE CONCRETE PECULIARITIES OF THE NATIONAL QUESTION IN RUSSIA AND RUSSIA'S BOURGEOIS-DEMOCRATIC REFORMATION

"In spite of the elasticity of the principle of 'the right of nations to self-determination,' which is a mere platitude, being obviously equally applicable not only to nations inhabiting Russia, but also to nations inhabiting Germany and Austria, Switzerland and Sweden, America and Australia, we do not find it in any of the programmes of modern socialist parties." (*Przegląd* No 6, p 483)

Thus writes Rosa Luxemburg at the very beginning of her campaign against point nine of the Marxists' programme. In trying to foist on us the conception of this point in the programme as a "mere platitude" Rosa Luxemburg herself falls victim to this error, alleging with an amusing boldness that this point is "obviously equally applicable" to Russia, Germany, etc.

Obviously, we reply, Rosa Luxemburg decided to make her article a collection of errors in logic, suitable for schoolboy

<sup>1</sup> *Przegląd* (Review), the organ of the Polish Social Democrats.—Ed

studies For Rosa Luxemburg's tirade is absolute nonsense and a mockery of the historically concrete presentation of the question

Interpreting the Marxian programme in a Marxian and not in a childish way, it is very easy to guess that it applies to bourgeois democratic national movements Since that is so, and it undoubtedly is so, it is "obvious" that this programme, "sweepingly," as a "platitude," etc, applies to *all* instances of bourgeois democratic national movements And had Rosa Luxemburg given the slightest thought to this, she would have come to the no less obvious conclusion that our programme refers *only* to cases where such a movement is actually in existence

Had she pondered over these obvious considerations, Rosa Luxemburg would have easily perceived what nonsense she has uttered In accusing *us* of uttering a "platitude" she uses *against us* the argument that no mention is made of the right to self determination in the programmes of those countries where there are *no* bourgeois democratic national movements! A remarkably clever argument!

A comparison of the political and economic development of various countries as well as of the Marxian programmes is of enormous importance from the standpoint of Marxism, for no doubt exists as to the general capitalist nature of modern states and the general law of their development But such a comparison must be drawn in a sensible way The elementary condition required for this is the elucidation of the question of whether the historical epochs of the development of the countries contrasted are at all *comparable* For instance, only absolute ignoramuses (such as Prince E Trubetskoy\* in *Russkaya Mysl*) are capable of "comparing" the agrarian programme of the Russian Marxists with those of Western Europe, for our programme answers the question regarding a *bourgeois democratic* agrarian reformation whereas in the Western countries no such question exists

The same applies to the national question In most Western countries this question was settled long ago It is ridiculous to seek in the programmes of Western Europe for an answer to non-existent questions Rosa Luxemburg has lost sight of the most important thing, *viz*, the difference between countries where the

bourgeois democratic reformation has long been completed and those where it has not yet been completed

This difference is the crux of the matter. The complete disregard of this difference transforms Rosa Luxemburg's exceedingly long article into a collection of empty, meaningless generalisations.

In Western, continental Europe, the period of bourgeois democratic revolutions embraces a fairly definite period of time, approximately from 1789 to 1871. It was precisely this epoch that was the epoch of national movements and the creation of national states. After the termination of this period, Western Europe was transformed into a settled system of bourgeois states and, as a general rule, single-nation states. Therefore, to seek the right of self-determination in the programmes of West European Socialists means not understanding the A B C of Marxism.

In Eastern Europe and in Asia the period of bourgeois democratic revolutions only started in 1905. The revolutions in Russia, Persia, Turkey and China, the wars in the Balkans,\* such is the chain of world events of *our* period in our "Orient." And only the blind can fail to see the awakening of a *whole series* of bourgeois democratic national movements, strivings to create nationally independent and nationally united states in this chain of events. It is precisely and solely because Russia and the neighbouring countries are passing through this epoch that we require an item in our programme on the right of nations to self-determination.

But we will continue the quotation from Rosa Luxemburg's article a little further. She writes:

"In particular, the programme of the party which operates in a state with an extremely motley national composition and in which the national question plays a role of first class importance—the programme of the Austrian Social Democratic Party—does not contain the principle of the right of nations to self-determination" (*Ibid*).

Thus, an attempt is made to convince the reader "in particular" by the example of Austria. Let us consider from a concrete historical standpoint whether this example contains much that is reasonable.

In the first place, we raise the fundamental question of the completion of the bourgeois democratic revolution. The latter



started in Austria in 1848, and was over in 1867. Since then, for nearly half a century, there has prevailed what on the whole is an established bourgeois constitution on the basis of which a legal workers' party is legally functioning.

Therefore, in the internal conditions of the development of Austria (i.e., from the standpoint of the development of capitalism in Austria in general, and among its separate nations in particular), there are *no* factors that produce leaps, one of the concomitants of which may be the formation of nationally independent states. In assuming by her comparison that Russia in this respect is in an analogous position, Rosa Luxemburg not only makes a radically wrong, anti-historical assumption, but she in voluntarily slips into liquidationism.

Secondly, the entirely different proportions of nationalities in Austria and in Russia are of particularly great importance in regard to the question with which we are concerned. Not only was Austria for a long time a state in which the Germans were predominant, but the Austrian Germans laid claim to hegemony in the German nation as a whole. This "claim," as Rosa Luxemburg (who is seemingly so averse to generalisations, platitudes, abstractions) will perhaps be kind enough to remember, was defeated in the war of 1866. The German nation predominating in Austria found itself *outside the limits* of the independent German state which finally took shape in 1871.\* On the other hand the attempt of the Hungarians to create an independent national state collapsed as far back as 1849, under the blows of the Russian army of serfs.

A very peculiar position was thus created—a gravitation on the part of the Hungarians and then of the Czechs, not towards separation from Austria, but, on the contrary, towards the preservation of the integrity of Austria precisely in order to preserve national independence, which could have been completely crushed by more rapacious and powerful neighbours! Owing to this peculiar position, Austria assumed the form of a double-centred (dual) state, and is now being transformed into a three-centre (triune) state (Germans, Hungarians, Slavs).

Is there anything like it in Russia? Is there in our country a

gravitation of "alien races" towards unity with the Great Russians under the threat of a worse national oppression?

It suffices to put this question to see that the comparison between Russia and Austria in the question of self determination of nations is senseless, trivial and betrays ignorance

The peculiar conditions of Russia in regard to the national question are just the reverse of those we have in Austria. Russia is a state with a single national centre—the Great Russian. The Great Russians occupy a gigantic uninterrupted stretch of territory and number about 70,000,000

The peculiarity of this national state is, in the first place, that "alien races" (which, on the whole, form the majority of the entire population—57 per cent) inhabit precisely the border lands, secondly, that the oppression of these alien races is much worse than in the neighbouring states (and not in the European states alone), thirdly, that in a number of cases the oppressed nationalities inhabiting the border lands have compatriots across the border who enjoy greater national independence (suffice it to recall the Finns, the Swedes, the Poles, the Ukrainians, the Rumanians along the western and southern frontiers of the state), fourthly, the development of capitalism and the general level of culture are not infrequently higher in the border lands inhabited by "alien races" than in the centre of the state. Finally, it is precisely in the neighbouring Asiatic states that we observe incipient bourgeois revolutions and national movements, which partly affect the kindred nationalities within the borders of Russia

Thus, it is precisely the concrete historical peculiarities of the national question in Russia that cause the recognition of the right of nations to self determination in the present epoch to become a matter of special urgency in our country

Incidentally, even from the purely factual aspect, Rosa Luxemburg's assertion that the programme of the Austrian Social Democrats does not contain the recognition of the right of nations to self determination is incorrect. We need only open the minutes of the Brünn Congress, which adopted the national programme,\* and we shall see there the statement by the Ruthenian Social Democrat Hankevicz on behalf of the entire Ukrainian (Ruthen

ian) delegation (p 85 of the minutes), and by the Polish Social Democrat Reger on behalf of the entire Polish delegation (p 108), to the effect that the Austrian Social Democrats of both the above mentioned nations strive, among other things, for national unity, for the freedom and independence of their nations. Therefore Austrian Social Democracy without including the right of nations to self determination directly in its programme is, nevertheless, quite reconciled to the demand for national independence being put forward by *sections* of the Party. In reality this means, of course, the recognition of the right of nations to self determination! Thus Rosa Luxemburg's reference to Austria speaks *against* Rosa Luxemburg in *all* respects.

#### IV "PRACTICALNESS" IN THE NATIONAL QUESTION

The opportunists were particularly zealous in taking up Rosa Luxemburg's argument that point nine of our programme does not contain anything "practical." Rosa Luxemburg is so delighted with this argument that sometimes in her article the following "slogan" is repeated eight times on a single page.

She writes

"Point nine does not contain any practical indication for the day to day policy of the proletariat, or any practical solution of the national problems."

Let us examine this argument, which is also formulated in a way that implies that point nine either means nothing, or else pledges us to support all national aspirations.

What is the meaning of the demand for "practicalness" in the national question?

Either the support of all national aspirations, or the answer "yes" or "no" to the question of the separation of each nation, or generally, the immediate "possibility of achieving" the national demands.

Let us consider all these three possible meanings of the demand for "practicalness."

The bourgeoisie, which naturally exercises hegemony (leadership) in the beginning of every national movement, calls the support of all the national aspirations a practical matter. But the

policy of the proletariat in the national question (as in other questions) supports the bourgeoisie only in a definite direction, it never coincides with the policy of the bourgeoisie. The working class supports the bourgeoisie only for the sake of national peace (which the bourgeoisie cannot give to the full extent and which may be achieved only in so far as there is *complete* democratisation), for the sake of equal rights, for the sake of creating better conditions for the class struggle. Therefore it is precisely *against the practicalness* of the bourgeoisie that the proletarians advance their *principles* in the national question, and always give the bourgeoisie *only conditional* support. In matters of nationality the bourgeoisie of every country wants either privileges for its *own* nation, or exceptional advantages for it, this is called "practical." The proletariat is opposed to all privileges, to all exceptions. To demand "practicalness" of it means dragging it in the wake of the bourgeoisie, displaying opportunism.

The demand for an answer "yes" or "no" to the question of the separation of each nation seems to be a very "practical" demand. In reality it is absurd, it is metaphysical in theory, and in practice it leads to the proletariat's subordinating itself to the policy of the bourgeoisie. The bourgeoisie always places its national demands in the forefront. It advances them unconditionally. For the proletariat, however, these demands are subordinated to the interests of the class struggle. Theoretically, it is impossible to vouch beforehand whether the separation of a given nation from, or its equality with, another nation will complete the bourgeois democratic revolution, *in either case*, it is important for the proletariat to ensure the development of its class, for the bourgeoisie, it is important that this development be hampered and that the tasks of the proletariat be forced into the background by the tasks of "its own" nation. That is why the proletariat confines itself, so to say, to the negative demand of recognising the right to self-determination, without guaranteeing anything to any nation, without undertaking to give *anything at the expense* of another nation.

This may be "impractical," but in reality it is the best guarantee for the most democratic of all possible solutions, the proletariat needs *only* these guarantees, whereas the bourgeoisie of

every nation requires guarantees for *its own* interests, irrespective of the position of (or the possible disadvantages to) other nations

The bourgeoisie is most interested in the "possibility of achieving" the given demand—hence the perennial policy of bargains with the bourgeoisie of other nations to the detriment of the proletariat. For the proletariat, however, the important thing is to strengthen its class against the bourgeoisie, to train the masses in the spirit of consistent democracy and socialism.

The opportunists may think this "impractical," but it is the only real guarantee of a maximum of equality, of national rights and of peace, in spite of the feudal landlords and the *nationalist* bourgeoisie.

The whole task of the proletarians in the national question is "impractical" from the standpoint of the *nationalist* bourgeoisie of every nation, because the proletarians demand "abstract" equal rights, being opposed to all nationalism, they demand that there shall not be, on principle, the slightest privilege. In her failure to grasp this, by her unwise eulogy of practicalness, Rosa Luxemburg opened the gate wide precisely for the opportunists, and especially for opportunist concessions to Great Russian nationalism.

Why Great Russian? Because the Great Russians in Russia are an oppressing nation, and on the national question, opportunism will naturally express itself differently among the oppressed nations from the way it will express itself among the oppressing nations.

The bourgeoisie of the oppressed nations will call upon the proletariat to support its aspirations unconditionally for the sake of the "practicalness" of its demands. It would be more practical to say a plain "yes" in favour of the separation of *this* or *that* nation, rather than in favour of the *right* of separation for all and sundry nations!

The proletariat is opposed to such practicalness, recognising equality of rights and an equal right to a national state, it values most the alliance of the proletarians of all nations, and evaluates every national demand, every national separation *from the angle* of the class struggle of the workers. The slogan of practicalness

is in fact only a slogan of non critically adopting bourgeois aspirations

We are told by supporting the right to secession you are supporting the bourgeois nationalism of the oppressed nations. This is what Rosa Luxemburg says, and it is repeated after her by Semkovsky, the opportunist, who, by the way, is the only representative of liquidationist ideas on this question in a liquidationist newspaper!

Our reply to this is no, a "practical" solution is important precisely for the bourgeoisie, for the workers it is the theoretical singling out of the *principles* of two tendencies that is important. *To the extent* that the bourgeoisie of the oppressed nation struggles against the oppressing one, *to that extent*, we are always, in every case, and more resolutely than anyone else, *for* it, because we are the staunchest and the most consistent enemies of oppression. In so far as the bourgeoisie of the oppressed nation stands for its own bourgeois nationalism we are against it. A struggle against the privileges and violence of the oppressing nation and no toleration of the strivings for privileges on the part of the oppressed nation.

Unless we in our agitation advance and carry out the slogan of the *right* to secession we shall play into the hands, not only of the bourgeoisie, but also of the feudal landlords and of the absolutism of the *oppressing* nation. Kautsky long ago advanced this argument against Rosa Luxemburg and the argument is indisputable. In her anxiety not to "assist" the nationalistic bourgeoisie of Poland, Rosa Luxemburg by her denial of the *right* to secession in the programme of the *Russian* Marxists, is *in fact* assisting the Great Russian Black Hundreds, she is, in fact, assisting opportunist reconciliation with the privileges (and worse than privileges) of the Great Russians.

Carried away by the struggle against nationalism in Poland, Rosa Luxemburg has forgotten the nationalism of the Great Russians although *this latter* nationalism is the most formidable at the present time, it is precisely the one that is less bourgeois and more feudal, and it is precisely the one that acts as the principal brake on democracy and the proletarian struggle. The bourgeois

nationalism of every oppressed nation has a general democratic content which is directed *against* oppression, and it is this content that we *absolutely* support, strictly distinguishing it from the tendency towards one's own national exclusiveness, fighting against the tendency of the Polish bourgeois to oppress the Jews, etc , etc

This is "impractical" from the standpoint of a bourgeois and a philistine. But it is the only policy in the national question that is practical, that is based on principles and that really helps democracy, liberty and proletarian alliance.

The recognition of the right to secession for all, the appraisal of each concrete question of secession from the point of view of removing all inequality in rights, all privileges, all exceptionalism.

Let us examine the position of an oppressing nation. Can a nation be free if it oppresses other nations? It cannot. The interests of the freedom of the Great Russian population<sup>1</sup> demand a struggle against such oppression. The long, age long history of the suppression of the movements of the oppressed nations, the systematic propaganda in favour of such suppression on the part of the "upper" classes, created enormous obstacles to the cause of freedom of the Great Russian people itself, in the form of prejudices, etc.

The Great Russian Black Hundreds deliberately foster and fan these prejudices. The Great Russian bourgeoisie is becoming reconciled to them or panders to them. The Great Russian proletariat cannot achieve *its* aims, cannot clear the road to freedom for itself without systematically combating these prejudices.

In Russia, the creation of an independent national state so far remains the privilege of one nation, the Great Russian nation. We, the Great Russian proletarians, defend no privileges, and we do not defend this privilege. We fight on the basis of the given state, unite the workers of all nations in the given state, we can

<sup>1</sup> This word appears un-Marxian to a certain L. VI\* in Paris. This L. VI is amusingly "*superklug*" (over clever). This 'over clever' L. VI apparently proposes to write an essay on the deletion from our minimum programme (from the point of view of the class struggle!) of the words "population," "people" etc.

not vouch for this or that path of national development, we advance to our class goal by *all* possible paths

But we cannot advance to that goal without fighting all nationalism, without maintaining the equality of the workers of all nations. A thousand factors which cannot be foreseen will determine whether the Ukraine, for example, is destined to form an independent state. And without attempting idle "guesses," we firmly uphold what is beyond doubt the right of the Ukraine to form such a state. We respect this right, we do not uphold the privileges of the Great Russians over the Ukrainians, we educate the masses in the spirit of the recognition of that right, in the spirit of rejecting the *state* privileges of any nation.

In the leaps which all nations took in the epoch of bourgeois revolutions, clashes and struggle over their right to a national state were possible and probable. We proletarians declare ourselves in advance to be opposed to Great Russian privileges, and conduct our entire propaganda and agitation in that direction.

In her quest for "practicalness" Rosa Luxemburg has overlooked the *principal* practical task both of the Great Russian proletariat and of the proletariat of other nationalities, the task of everyday agitation and propaganda against all state and national privileges, for the right, the equal right of all nations to their national state—this task is (at present) our principal task in the national question, for only in this way do we defend the interests of democracy and of the alliance of all proletarians of all nations based on equal rights.

This propaganda may be "impractical" from the point of view of the Great Russian oppressors as well as from the point of view of the bourgeoisie of the oppressed nations (both demand a definite "yes" or "no," and accuse the Social Democrats of being "vague"). In reality, it is precisely this propaganda, and only this propaganda, that ensures the really democratic, the really socialist education of the masses. Only such propaganda ensures the maximum chances of national peace in Russia, should she remain a heterogeneous nation state, and such propaganda ensures the most peaceful (and for the proletarian class struggle, harmless)



division into the various national states, should the question of such division arise

In order to explain this policy, the only proletarian policy in the national question, more concretely, we shall examine the attitude of Great Russian liberalism towards "self determination of nations" and quote the example of the secession of Norway from Sweden \*

## VII THE RESOLUTION OF THE LONDON INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS, 1896

This resolution reads

"The Congress declares that it upholds the full right of self determination of all nations and expresses its sympathy for the workers of every country now suffering under the yoke of military, national or other despotism, the Congress calls on the workers of all these countries to join the ranks of the class conscious workers of the whole world in order to fight together with them for the defeat of international capitalism and for the achievement of the aims of international Social Democracy"<sup>1</sup>

As we have already pointed out, our opportunists, Messrs Semkovsky, Liebmann and Yurkevich simply do not know of this decision But Rosa Luxemburg knows it and quotes its full text, which contains the same expression as that contained in our programme, "self determination"

The question is, how does Rosa Luxemburg remove this obstacle which lies in the path of her "original" theory?

Oh, quite simply the whole weight is in the second part of the resolution its declaratory character one would refer to it only under a misapprehension!!

The helplessness and perplexity of our author are simply as tounding Usually, only the opportunists point to the declaratory character of the consistent democratic and socialist points in the programme, while, in a cowardly fashion, they avoid entering into a direct controversy over these points Not without reason, apparently, has Rosa Luxemburg found herself this time in the

<sup>1</sup> See the official German report of the London Congress *Verhandlungen und Beschlüsse des internationalen sozialistischen Arbeiter und Gewerkschaftskongresses zu London, vom 27 Juli bis 1 August 1896*, Berlin, 1897, S 18

deplorable company of Messrs Semkovsky, Liebmann and Yurkevich Rosa Luxemburg does not venture to declare openly whether she regards the above resolution as correct or erroneous She wriggles and hides as if counting on the inattentive or ill informed reader who forgets the first part of the resolution by the time he has started reading the second, or on one who has never heard of the discussions that took place in the Socialist press prior to the London Congress

However, Rosa Luxemburg is greatly mistaken if she imagines that she will be able so easily, before the class conscious workers of Russia, to trample upon the resolution of the International on such an important question of principle without even deigning to analyse it critically

Rosa Luxemburg's point of view was voiced during the discussions which took place prior to the London Congress, mainly in the columns of the organ of the German Marxists, *Die Neue Zeit*, and this point of view actually suffered defeat at the International! That is the crux of the matter, which the Russian reader must especially bear in mind

The debates turned on the question of the independence of Poland Three points of view were advanced

1 The point of view of the "*fraks*"<sup>1</sup> Hecker spoke on their behalf They wanted the International to include in its programme the demand for the independence of Poland This proposal was not accepted. This point of view was defeated by the International

2 Rosa Luxemburg's point of view The Polish Socialists must not demand the independence of Poland. From this point of view there could be no question of proclaiming the right of nations to self determination This point of view was likewise defeated by the International

3 The point of view which was then most thoroughly expounded by Kautsky in opposing Rosa Luxemburg, when he proved the extreme "one sidedness" of her materialism From this point of view the International cannot, at the present time, make

<sup>1</sup> The Right wing of the Polish Socialist Party—Ed Eng ed

the independence of Poland a plank in its programme, but the Polish Socialists—said Kautsky—are fully entitled to advance such a demand. From the point of view of the Socialists, it is absolutely a mistake to ignore the tasks of national liberation in a situation of national oppression.

The resolution of the International reproduces the most essential, fundamental propositions of this point of view. On the one hand, the absolutely direct, unambiguous recognition of the full right of all nations to self determination, on the other hand, the equally unambiguous appeal to the workers for *international* unity in their class struggle.

We believe that this resolution is quite correct and that for the countries of Eastern Europe and Asia in the beginning of the twentieth century it is precisely this resolution, in both its parts taken as an inseparable whole, that gives the only correct directions to the proletarian class policy in the national question.

We will deal in somewhat greater detail with the three above mentioned points of view.

It is well known that Karl Marx and Frederick Engels considered that the bounden duty of the whole of West European democracy, and still more of Social Democracy, was to support actively the demand for the independence of Poland. For the period of the forties and sixties of last century, the period of the bourgeois revolutions in Austria and Germany, and the period of the "Peasant Reform"<sup>1</sup> in Russia, this point of view was quite correct and the only consistently democratic and proletarian point of view. As long as the masses of the people in Russia and in most Slavic countries were still fast asleep, as long as *there were no* independent, mass, democratic movements in these countries, the *aristocratic*<sup>2</sup> liberation movement in Poland assumed enormous, paramount importance from the point of view, not only of all

<sup>1</sup> I.e., the emancipation of the serfs—Ed. Eng. ed.

<sup>2</sup> In the original text "*szlachta*," i.e., the Polish word for the landed nobility—Ed. Eng. ed.

Russian, not only of all Slavic, but also of all European democracy<sup>1</sup>

But while this standpoint of Marx was correct for the sixties, or for the third quarter of the nineteenth century, it ceased to be correct in the twentieth century. Independent democratic movements, and even an independent proletarian movement, have arisen in most Slavic countries, even in one of the most backward Slavic countries, in Russia. *Szlachta* Poland has disappeared, yielding place to capitalist Poland. Under such circumstances Poland could not but lose its *exceptional* revolutionary importance.

The attempt of the Polish Socialist Party (the present day "*fraki*") in 1896 to "fix" Marx's point of view of another epoch meant using the *letter* of Marxism against the *spirit* of Marxism. Therefore, the Polish Social Democrats were quite right when they attacked the nationalistic infatuation of the Polish petty bourgeoisie and pointed out that the national question was of secondary importance for Polish workers, when they for the first time created a purely proletarian party in Poland, and proclaimed the very important principle of maintaining the closest alliance between the Polish and the Russian workers in their class struggle.

But did this mean that in the beginning of the twentieth century the International could regard the principle of political self-determination of nations for Eastern Europe and for Asia, or their right to separation, as being superfluous? This would be the height of absurdity, which would (theoretically) be tantamount to recognising the bourgeois democratic transformation of the Turkish,

<sup>1</sup> It would be a very interesting piece of historical work to compare the position of a Polish aristocrat rebel in 1863 with the position of the Russian democrat revolutionary, Chernyshevsky, who also (like Marx) knew how to appraise the importance of the Polish movement, and with the position of the Ukrainian petty bourgeois Dragomanov, who appeared much later and expressed the point of view of a peasant, so ignorant, sleepy and grown fast to his dung heap, that owing to his legitimate hatred of the Polish *pan* (lord—*Ed Eng ed*) he was unable to understand the significance of the struggle of these *panes* for all Russian democracy. (See *Historical Poland and All Russian Democracy* by Dragomanov.) Dragomanov richly deserved the fervent kisses which were subsequently bestowed on him by Mr P B Struve, who by that time had become a national liberal.

Russian and Chinese states as having been completed, tantamount (in effect) to opportunism towards absolutism

No During the period of incipient bourgeois democratic revolutions, during the period of the awakening and intensification of national movements, during the period of formation of independent proletarian parties, the task of such parties in national politics in regard to Eastern Europe and Asia must be twofold the recognition of the right to self determination for all nations, because the bourgeois democratic transformation is not yet complete, because labour democracy consistently, seriously and sincerely, not in a liberal, Kokoshkin fashion, fights for equal rights for nations—and the closest, inseparable alliance in the class struggle of the proletarians of all nations in a given state, throughout all the vicissitudes of its history, irrespective of any reshaping of the frontiers of the individual states by the bourgeoisie

The resolution of the International of 1896 formulates precisely this twofold task of the proletariat Such, exactly, in its basic principles, is the resolution of the Summer Conference of Russian Marxists held in 1913 There are people who see a "contradiction" in the fact that point four of this resolution which recognises the right to self determination, to secession, seems to "offer" the maximum to nationalism (in reality the recognition of the *right* of *all* nations to self determination is the maximum of *democracy* and the minimum of nationalism), while point five warns the workers against the nationalistic slogans of the bourgeoisie of any nation and demands the unity and fusion of the workers of all nations into internationally united proletarian organisations \* But only extremely shallow people who are incapable of understanding, for instance, why the unity and class solidarity of the Swedish and the Norwegian proletariat improved when the Swedish workers succeeded in upholding Norway's freedom to secede and form an independent state can see any "contradiction" in this

### VIII KARL MARX THE UTOPIAN AND ROSA LUXEMBURG THE PRACTICAL

While declaring the independence of Poland to be a utopia and repeating it *ad nauseam*, Rosa Luxemburg exclaims ironically why not raise the demand for the independence of Ireland?

It is obvious that the "practical" Rosa Luxemburg is unaware of Karl Marx's attitude to the question of the independence of Ireland. It is worth while dwelling upon this, in order to give an analysis of the *concrete* demand for national independence from a really Marxian and not an opportunist standpoint.

Marx had a habit of "probing the teeth," as he expressed himself, of his Socialist acquaintances, testing their intelligence and force of convictions. Having made the acquaintance of Lopatin, Marx wrote to Engels on July 15, 1870,\* and expressed a highly flattering opinion of the young Russian Socialist, but added, at the same time

" *Poland is his weak point. On this point he speaks quite like an Englishman—say an English Chartist of the old school—about Ireland.* "

Marx asks a Socialist belonging to an oppressing nation about his attitude to the oppressed nation and he at once reveals the defect *common* to the Socialists of the dominant nations (the British and the Russian) they fail to understand their Socialist duties towards the downtrodden nations, they chew the cud of prejudices, borrowed from the bourgeoisie of the "Great Powers."

Before passing on to the positive declarations of Marx on Ireland it must be pointed out that in general the attitude of Marx and Engels to the national question was strictly critical, and they recognised its historical relativity. Thus, Engels wrote to Marx on May 23, 1851, that the study of history was leading him to pessimistic conclusions concerning Poland, that the importance of Poland was temporary, that it would last only until the agrarian revolution in Russia. The role of the Poles in history was one of "brave, quarrelsome stupidity."

"And one cannot point to a single instance in which Poland represented progress successfully, even if only in relation to Russia, or did anything at all of historic importance." Russia contains more elements of civilisation, education, industry and of the bourgeoisie than the "Poles whose nature is

that of the idle cavalier      What are Warsaw and Cracow, compared to St Petersburg, Moscow, Odessa, etc !"

Engels had no faith in the success of an uprising of the Polish nobles

But all these thoughts, so full of genius and penetration, by no means prevented Engels and Marx from treating the Polish movement with the most profound and ardent sympathy twelve years afterwards, when Russia was still asleep and Poland was seething

When drafting the Address of the International in 1864, Marx writes to Engels (on November 4, 1864) that the nationalism of Mazzini has to be fought Marx writes

"In so far as international politics come into the Address I speak of countries, not nationalities, and denounce Russia, not the *minores gentium*"<sup>1</sup>

Marx had no doubt as to the subordinate position of the national question as compared with the "labour question" But his theory is as far from ignoring the national question as heaven from earth

1866 arrives Marx writes to Engels about the "Proudhonist clique" in Paris, which

" declares nationalities to be an absurdity and attacks Bismarck and Garibaldi, etc As polemics against chauvinism their tactics are useful and explainable But when the believers in Proudhon (my good friends here, Lafargue and Longuet, also belong to them) think that all Europe can and should sit quietly and peacefully on its behind until the gentlemen from France abolish *la misère et l'ignorance* they become ridiculous" (Letter of June 7, 1866)

'Yesterday,' Marx writes on June 20, 1866, "there was a discussion in the International Council" on the present war The discussion wound up, as was to be expected, with the question of 'nationality' in general and the attitude we should take towards it The representatives of Young France' (*non workers*) came out with the argument that all nationalities and even nations were 'antiquated prejudices,' Proudhonised Stirnerism the whole world waits until the French are ripe for a social revolution The English laughed very much when I began my speech by saying that our friend Lafargue, etc, who had done away with nationalities, had spoken 'French' to us, i.e., a language which nine tenths of the audience did not understand I also suggested that by the negation of nationalities he appeared, quite unconsciously, to understand their absorption into the model French nation"

<sup>1</sup> The small nations.—*Ed Eng ed.*

<sup>2</sup> The Council of the First International of which Marx was leader.—*Ed.*

The conclusion that follows from all these critical remarks of Marx is clear the working class should be the last to make a fetish of the national question, since the development of capitalism does not necessarily awaken *all* nations to independent life. But to brush aside the mass national movements once they have started and to refuse to support what is progressive in them means, in effect, pandering to *nationalistic* prejudices, viz., recognising "one's own as the model nation" (or, we will add on our part, as the nation possessing the exclusive privilege of forming a state) <sup>1</sup>

But let us return to the question of Ireland

Marx's position on this question is most clearly expressed in the following extracts from his letters

"I have done my best to bring about this demonstration of the British workers in favour of Fenianism. I used to consider the separation of Ireland from England impossible. I now think it inevitable, although after the separation there may come *federation*."

This is what Marx wrote to Engels on November 2, 1867

In his letter of November 30 of the same year, he added

"what shall we advise the *English* workers? In my opinion they must make the *repeal of the Union*' (*i.e.*, the separation of Ireland from Great Britain) "(in short, the affair of 1783 only democratised and adapted to the conditions of the time) into an article of their *pronunziamento*. This is the only legal and therefore only possible form of Irish emancipation which can be admitted in the programme of an *English* party. Experience must show later whether a purely personal union can continue to subsist between the two countries

"What the Irish need is:

"1) Self government and independence from England,

"2) An agrarian revolution"

Marx attached great importance to the question of Ireland and he delivered lectures of one and a half hours' duration at the German Workers' Union on this subject (letter of December 17, 1867)

Engels notes in a letter of November 20, 1868, "the hatred for the Irish on the part of the British workers," and almost a year afterwards (October 24, 1869), returning to this question, he writes:

<sup>1</sup> Compare also Marx's letter to Engels of June 3, 1867 "I have learned with real pleasure from the Paris letters to the *Times* about the pro Polish sentiments of the Parisians as against Russia. Proudhon and his little doctrinaire clique are not the French people"



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"*Il n'y a qu'un pas*" (it is only one step) 'from Ireland to Russia' " The example of 'Irish history shows one how disastrous it is for a nation when it has subjugated another nation All the abominations of the English have their origin in the Irish Pale I have still to work through (ochsen) the Cromwellian period but this much seems certain to me that things would have taken another turn in England but for the necessity in Ireland of military rule and the creation of a new aristocracy "

Let us note, by the way, Marx's letter to Engels of August 18, 1869

"In Posen the Polish workers have brought a strike to a victorious end by the help of their colleagues in Berlin This struggle against Monsieur le Capital even in the subordinate form of the strike—is a very different way of getting rid of national prejudices from that of the bourgeois gentlemen with their peace declamations."

The policy on the Irish question pursued by Marx in the International may be seen from the following

On November 18, 1869, Marx writes to Engels that he spoke for one and a quarter hours in the Council of the International on the question of the attitude of the British Ministry to the Irish amnesty\* and proposed the following resolution

"Resolved,

that in his reply to the Irish demands for the release of the imprisoned Irish patriots—a reply contained in his letter to Mr O'Shea, etc—Mr Gladstone deliberately insults the Irish nation,

"that he clogs political amnesty with conditions alike degrading to the victims of misgovernment and the people they belong to,

"that having, in the teeth of his responsible position publicly and enthusiastically cheered on the American slaveholders rebellion he now steps in to preach to the Irish people the doctrine of passive obedience,

"that his whole proceedings with reference to the Irish amnesty question are the true and genuine product of that 'policy of conquest,' by the fiery denunciation of which Mr Gladstone ousted his Tory rivals from office,

"that the General Council of the International Workingmen's Association express their admiration of the spirited, firm and high-souled manner in which the Irish people carry on their amnesty movement;

"that these resolutions be communicated to all branches of and work ingmen's bodies connected with the International Workingmen's Association in Europe and America "

On December 10, 1869, Marx writes that his paper on the Irish question to be read at the Council of the International will be framed on the following lines

" . . . quite apart from all phrases about 'international' and 'humane' justice for Ireland—which are to be taken for granted in the International

*Council—it is in the direct and absolute interest of the English working class to get rid of their present connection with Ireland* And this is my most complete conviction, and for reasons which in part I cannot tell the English workers themselves For a long time I believed that it would be possible to overthrow the Irish regime by English working class ascendancy I always expressed this point of view in *The New York Tribune* [an American journal to which Marx contributed] Deeper study has now convinced me of the opposite The English working class will *never accomplish anything* before it has got rid of Ireland English reaction in England had its roots in the subjugation of Ireland" (Marx's italics)

The policy of Marx on the Irish question should now be quite clear to the readers

Marx, the "utopian," is so "impractical" that he stands for the separation of Ireland, which has not been realised even half a century afterwards

What gave rise to this policy of Marx, and was it not a mistake? In the beginning, Marx thought that it was not the national movement of the oppressed nation, but the labour movement of the oppressing nation that would emancipate Ireland Marx does not make an absolute of the national movement, knowing, as he does, that the victory of the working class alone can bring about the complete emancipation of all nationalities It is impossible to estimate beforehand all the possible correlations between the bourgeois emancipation movements of the oppressed nations and the proletarian emancipation movement of the oppressing nation (the very problem which today makes the national question so difficult in Russia)

However, matters turned out so that the British working class fell under the influence of the Liberals for a fairly long time, became their tail end and by adopting a liberal labour policy beheaded itself The bourgeois movement of emancipation in Ireland grew stronger and assumed revolutionary forms Marx reconsidered his view and corrected it "How disastrous it is for a nation when it has subjugated another nation" The working class of Great Britain cannot possibly emancipate itself before Ireland is liberated from the British yoke Reaction in Great Britain is strengthened and fed by the enslavement of Ireland (just as reaction in Russia is fed by the latter's enslavement of a number of nations!)

And Marx, in proposing in the International a resolution of sympathy with the "Irish nation" and the "Irish people" (the clever LVI would probably have rated poor Marx for forgetting about the class struggle!), preaches the *separation* of Ireland from Great Britain, "although after the separation there may come federation"

What are the theoretical grounds for this conclusion of Marx? In Great Britain the bourgeois revolution was completed long ago. But it has not yet been completed in Ireland, it is being completed now, after the lapse of half a century, by the reforms of the British Liberals. If capitalism in Great Britain had been overthrown as quickly as Marx at first expected, there would have been no place for a bourgeois democratic and general national movement in Ireland. But since it arose, Marx advises the British workers to support it, to give it a revolutionary impetus and lead it to a final issue in the interests of *its own* liberty.

The economic ties between Ireland and England in the sixties of last century were of course even closer than the ties of Russia with Poland, the Ukraine, etc. The "impracticability" and "impossibility of realising" the separation of Ireland (if only owing to geographical conditions and the immense colonial power of Great Britain) were quite obvious. While, in principle, an enemy of federalism, Marx in this instance agrees also to federation,<sup>1</sup> *if only* the emancipation of Ireland were achieved in a revolutionary and not in a reformist way, through the movement of the mass of the people of Ireland supported by the working class of England. There can be no doubt that only such a solution of the historical problem would be in the best interests of the proletariat and the pace of social development.

<sup>1</sup> By the way, it is not difficult to see why, from a Social Democratic point of view, *neither* federation *nor* autonomy is to be implied by the right of "self determination" (Although, speaking in the abstract, the one and the other fall under self-determination.) The right to federation is, in general, an absurdity since federation is a two-sided contract. It goes without saying that Marxists in general cannot place the defence of federalism in their programme. As far as autonomy is concerned, Marxists defend not the right to autonomy but autonomy *itself*, as a general, universal principle of a democratic state with a mixed national composition, with sharp differences in the geographical and other conditions. Consequently, the recognition of the "right of nations to autonomy" is as absurd as the "right of nations to federation."

It turned out differently. Both the Irish people and the British proletariat proved feeble. Only now, through the miserable deals between the English Liberals and the Irish bourgeoisie, is the Irish problem being solved (the example of Ulster\* shows with what difficulty) through the land reform (with compensation) and autonomy (not introduced so far). Well then? Does it follow that Marx and Engels were "utopians," that they put forward national demands impossible of realisation, that they allowed themselves to be influenced by the Irish petty bourgeois nationalists (there is no doubt about the petty bourgeois nature of the Fenians), etc?

No. Marx and Engels pursued also in the Irish question a consistently proletarian policy, which really educated the masses in the spirit of democracy and socialism. Only such a policy could have saved both Ireland and England from half a century of delay of the necessary reforms and from being mutilated by the Liberals to please the reactionaries.

The policy of Marx and Engels in the Irish question serves as the greatest example (an example which retains its tremendous practical importance up to the present time) of the attitude which the proletariat of the dominating nations should adopt towards national movements. It serves as a warning against that "servile haste" with which the philistines of all countries, colours and languages hurry to declare "utopian" all changes in the frontiers of states established by the violence and privileges of the landlords and bourgeoisie of one nation.

If the Irish and British proletariat had not accepted the policy of Marx and had not put forward the slogans of the separation of Ireland—that would have been the worst opportunism on their part, forgetfulness of the tasks of democrats and Socialists, a concession to *British* reaction and to the *British* bourgeoisie.

## IX THE 1903 PROGRAMME AND ITS LIQUIDATORS

The minutes of the congress of 1903, which adopted the programme of the Russian Marxists, have become a great rarity, and the overwhelming majority of the active workers in the labour movement of today are unacquainted with the motives underlying

the separate points of the programme (the more so since not all the literature relevant thereto enjoys the blessings of legality ) Therefore, it is necessary to dwell on the analysis of the question which interests us and which was raised at the congress of 1903

Let us state first of all that however meagre the Russian Social Democratic literature on the "right of nations to self determination" may be, it clearly shows that this right was always understood to mean the right to secession Messieurs the Semkovskys, Liebmans and Yurkeviches, who doubt this, who declare that point nine is "not clear," etc, do so only because of their extreme ignorance or carelessness As far back as 1902, Plekhanov, in *Zarya*, defending "the right to self determination" in the draft programme, wrote that this demand, which is not obligatory for the bourgeois democrats, is "*obligatory* for the Social Democrats "

"If we were to forget or hesitate to advance it" wrote Plekhanov, "for fear of offending the national prejudices of our contemporaries of Great Russian nationality the call 'proletarians of all countries, unite!' on our lips would become a shameful lie "

This is a very apt characterisation of the basic argument in favour of the point under consideration, so apt that it is not surprising that the critics of our programme "who would not own their kith and kin" timidly avoided it The renunciation of this point, no matter for what motives, means *in reality* a "shameful" concession to Great Russian nationalism But why Great Russian, when it is a question of the right of *all* nations to self determination? Because it refers to secession *from* the Great Russians The interests of the *unity of the proletarians*, the interests of their class solidarity demand the recognition of the right of *nations* to *secession*—that is what Plekhanov admitted in these words fourteen years ago, had our opportunists pondered over this they would probably not have talked so much nonsense about self determination

At the congress of 1903, which adopted the draft programme that Plekhanov advocated, the main work was done in the *Programme Commission* Unfortunately no minutes were taken, they would have been particularly interesting on this point, for it was *only* in the Commission that the representatives of the Polish

Social Democrats, Warszawski and Hanecki, tried to defend their view and dispute the "recognition of the right to self determination" The reader who took the trouble to compare their arguments (expounded in the speech by Warszawski and in his and Hanecki's declaration,\* pp 134-36 and 388-90 of the minutes<sup>1</sup>) with those Rosa Luxemburg advanced in her Polish article, which we have analysed, would find that they are quite identical

How were these arguments treated by the Programme Commission of the Second Congress, where Plekhanov more than anyone else attacked the Polish Marxists? These arguments were mercilessly ridiculed! The absurdity of proposing to the *Russian Marxists* that they delete the recognition of the right of nations to self determination was demonstrated so clearly and graphically that the Polish Marxists *did not even venture to repeat their arguments at the plenary meeting of the congress!*<sup>1</sup> Having become convinced of the hopelessness of their case at the supreme assembly of Great Russian, Jewish, Georgian and Armenian Marxists, they left the congress

This historic episode is naturally of very great importance for everyone who is seriously interested in *his* programme The fact that the arguments of the Polish Marxists suffered utter defeat in the Programme Commission of the congress and that the Polish Marxists gave up the attempt to defend their views at the meeting of the congress—is very significant It is not without reason that Rosa Luxemburg "modestly" kept silent about it in her article in 1908—apparently the recollection of the congress was too unpleasant! She also kept quiet about the ridiculously unfortunate proposal made by Warszawski and Hanecki in 1903, on behalf of all the Polish Marxists, to "correct" point nine of the programme, a proposal which neither Rosa Luxemburg nor the other Polish Social Democrats ventured (or will venture) to repeat

But although Rosa Luxemburg concealed her defeat in 1903, kept quiet about these facts, those who take an interest in the history of their Party will take pains to ascertain the facts and ponder over their significance

<sup>1</sup> The Minutes of the Second Congress of the Russian Social Democratic Labour Party—Ed

The friends of Rosa Luxemburg, on leaving the congress in 1903, wrote to it as follows

" We propose that point 7" (now point 9) "of the draft programme read as follows Point 7 *Institutions guaranteeing full freedom of cultural development to all nations incorporated in the state*" (P 390 of the Minutes)

Thus, the Polish Marxists then propounded views on the national question which were so vague that *instead* of self determination they actually proposed the notorious "cultural national autonomy,"<sup>1</sup> under a pseudonym

This sounds almost incredible, but unfortunately it is a fact. At the congress itself, although it was attended by five Bundists with five votes, and three Caucasians with six votes, not counting Kostrov's consultative vote, not a *single* voice was raised for the *deletion* of the point about self determination. Three votes were cast for adding to this point "cultural national autonomy" (in favour of Goldblatt's formula, "the creation of institutions guaranteeing to the nations complete freedom of cultural development") and four votes for Lieber's formula ("the right of nations to complete freedom in their cultural development")

Now that a Russian liberal party, the party of the Cadets, has appeared on the scene we know that in its programme the political self determination of nations has been replaced by "cultural self determination." Thus, in "*combating*" the nationalism of the Polish Socialist Party, the Polish friends of Rosa Luxemburg were so successful that they proposed to substitute a *liberal* programme for the Marxian programme! And in the same breath they accused our programme of being opportunist—no wonder this accusation was received with laughter by the Programme Commission of the Second Congress!

How was "self determination" understood by the delegates at the Second Congress, of whom, as we have seen, *not a single one* was opposed to "self determination of nations"?

The following three extracts from the minutes provide the answer

"*Martynov* is of the opinion that the term 'self determination' must not be given a broad interpretation, it merely means the right of a nation to set

<sup>1</sup> See note to page 249 \*—*Ed Eng ed*

itself and as a separate political body but it does not mean regional self government' (P 171)

Martynov was a member of the Programme Commission in which the arguments of the friends of Rosa Luxemburg were refuted and ridiculed. In his views Martynov was then an "Economist," a rabid opponent of *Iskra*, and had he expressed an opinion which was not shared by the majority of the Programme Commission he certainly would have been repudiated.

Goldblatt, a Bundist, was the first to speak when the congress, after the commission had finished its work, discussed point eight (present point nine) of the programme.

Goldblatt said

"Nothing can be said against the 'right to self determination' When a nation is fighting for independence, it should not be opposed. If Poland does not want to enter into legal marriage with Russia, it should not be hampered as Plekhanov put it. I agree with this opinion within these limits" (Pp 175-76)

Plekhanov did not speak at all on this subject at the plenary meeting of the congress. What Goldblatt referred to were Plekhanov's words on the Programme Commission, where the "right to self determination" was explained in a simple and detailed manner to mean the right to secession. Lieber, who spoke after Goldblatt, remarked

"Of course if any nationality is unable to live within the frontiers of Russia, the Party will not place any obstacles in its way" (P 176)

The reader will see that at the Second Congress of the Party, which adopted the programme, there were no two opinions about self determination meaning "only" the right to secession. Even the Bundists assimilated this truth at that time, and only in our sad period of continued counter revolution and all sorts of "renunciations" have people been found who, bold in their ignorance, declare that the programme is "not clear." But before devoting time to these sad "also Social Democrats," let us first finish with the attitude of the Poles to the programme.

At the Second Congress (1903) they declared that unity was necessary and urgent. But they left the congress after their "failures" on the Programme Commission, and their *last word* was



their written statement printed in the minutes of the congress and containing the above mentioned proposals to *substitute* cultural national autonomy for self determination

In 1906 the Polish Marxists joined the Party, and neither upon joining nor afterwards (neither at the congress of 1907, nor at the conference of 1907 and 1908, nor the plenum of 1910) *did they once introduce* a single proposal to amend point nine of the Russian programme!

This is a fact

And this fact strikingly proves, in spite of all phrases and assurances, that the friends of Rosa Luxemburg regarded this question as having been settled by the debate on the Programme Commission of the Second Congress as well as by the decision of that congress, that they tacitly acknowledged their mistake and corrected it by joining the Party in 1906, after they had left the congress in 1903, and by their having made no attempt, through Party channels, to raise the question of amending point nine of the programme.

Rosa Luxemburg's article appeared over her signature in 1903—of course, no one ever took it into his head to deny the right of Party journalists to criticise the programme—and even *after* this article the question of revising point nine was not raised by a *single* official institution of the Polish Marxists

Hence, Trotsky is rendering certain admirers of Rosa Luxemburg a very clumsy service when he writes, in the name of the editors of *Borba* in No 2 (March 1914)

"The Polish Marxists consider that 'the right to national self determination' is entirely devoid of political content and should be deleted from the programme" (P 25)

The obliging Trotsky is more dangerous than an enemy! <sup>1</sup>

Trotsky could produce *no* proof except "private conversations" (*i.e.*, simply gossip, on which Trotsky always subsists) for classifying "Polish Marxists" in general as adherents of every article that Rosa Luxemburg writes Trotsky represented the "Polish

<sup>1</sup> Lenin is paraphrasing the Russian proverb an obliging fool is more dangerous than an enemy —Ed Eng ed

Marxists" as people without honour and conscience, incapable of respecting even their own convictions and the programme of their Party Obliging Trotsky!

In 1903, when the representatives of the Polish Marxists left the Second Congress *because* of the right to self determination, Trotsky was entitled to say that they considered this right to be devoid of content and that it should be deleted from the programme

But after this the Polish Marxists *joined* the Party which possessed such a programme, and not once have they brought in a motion to amend it<sup>1</sup>

Why did Trotsky withhold these facts from the readers of his journal? Only because it was advantageous for him to speculate on fostering differences between the Polish and the Russian opponents of liquidationism and to deceive the Russian workers on the question of the programme

Trotsky has never yet held a firm opinion of any serious question relating to Marxism, he always manages to "creep into the chinks" of this or that difference of opinion, and desert one side for the other At this moment he is in the company of the Bundists and the liquidators And these gentlemen do not stand on ceremony in regard to the Party

Here is what Liebmann, the Bundist, says

"When Russian Social Democracy," writes this gentleman, 'in its programme, fifteen years ago, advanced the point about the right of every nationality to 'self determination everyone [!] asked himself what does this fashionable [!] term really mean? No answer was given to this [!] This word was left [!] enveloped in fog In fact it was difficult at the time to dissipate that fog The time had not yet come when this point could be made concrete—they used to say at the time—let it remain enveloped in fog [!] for the time being and life itself will indicate what content is to be put into this point"

<sup>1</sup> We are informed that at the Summer Conference of the Russian Marxists in 1913 (see note to page 249 \*—*Ed Eng ed*) the Polish Marxists attended with only a consultative vote and did not vote at all on the right to self determination (to secession), declaring themselves opposed to any such right in general Of course, they had a perfect right to act in this way, and, as hitherto, to agitate in Poland against its secession But this is not quite what Trotsky is saying, for the Polish Marxists did not demand the "deletion" of point nine "from the programme"

Isn't this "trouserless boy," mocking at the Party programme, magnificent?

And why is he mocking?

Only because he is a complete ignoramus who has never learned anything, who has not even read anything about Party history, but who simply happened to drop into a liquidationist environment, where it is the "thing" to walk about naked when it comes to questions of Party and Party spirit

In Pomyalovsky's novel, a *bursak*<sup>1</sup> brags of having "spat into a tub filled with cabbage"\* The honourable Bundists went even further They put up the Liebmans so that these gentlemen may publicly spit into their own tub What do the Liebmans care about the fact that an international congress has passed a decision? that at the congress of their own Party two representatives of their own Bund proved that they were quite able to understand the meaning of "self determination" (and what "severe" critics and determined enemies of *Iskra* they were!) and even agreed with it? And would it not be easier to dissolve the Party if the "Party journalists" (don't laugh) treated the history and the programme of the Party in the *bursak* fashion?

Here is a second "trouserless boy," Mr Yurkevich of *Dzvin*.<sup>2</sup> Mr Yurkevich has presumably perused the minutes of the Second Congress because he cites Plekhanov's words, as repeated by Goldblatt, and shows that he is familiar with the fact that self determination can only mean the right to secession This, however, does not prevent him from spreading slander among the Ukrainian petty bourgeoisie about the Russian Marxists, alleging that they are in favour of the "state integrity" of Russia (No 78, 1913, p 83 *et seq*) Of course, the Yurkeviches could not invent a better method of alienating Ukrainian from Great Russian democracy than this slander And such alienation is in line with the whole policy of the literary *Dzvin* group, which advocates the *segregation* of the Ukrainian workers and their formation into a *special* national organisation!

<sup>1</sup> A student in a theological seminary—*Ed Eng ed*

<sup>2</sup> *Dzvin* (*The Bell*), a Ukrainian monthly magazine of literature, science and social life, with a Marxian tendency, published in Kiev in 1913 14—*Ed*

It is quite appropriate, of course, for a group of nationalist petty bourgeois who are splitting the ranks of the proletariat—and such precisely is the objective role of *Dzvin*—to disseminate such hopeless confusion on the national question. It goes without saying that Messrs Yurkevich and Liebmann, who are “terribly” offended when they are called “near Party men,” did not say a word, not a single word, as to how *they* would like the problem of the right of secession to be solved in the programme.

Here is the third and principal “trouserless boy,” Mr Semkovsky, who in the columns of a liquidationist newspaper, with a Great Russian audience before him, tears point nine of the programme to pieces and at the same time declares that he “for certain reasons does not approve of the proposal” to delete this point!

This is incredible, but it is a fact.

In August 1912, the conference of the liquidators officially raised the national question. For a year and a half, except for Semkovsky’s article, not a single article appeared on the question concerning point nine. And in this article the author *repudiates* the programme, because “for *certain* reasons” (is it a secret disease?) he does “not approve of the proposal” to amend it! We would lay a wager that it would be difficult to find anywhere in the world similar examples of opportunism, and worse than opportunism, of the renunciation of the Party, of its liquidation.

One instance will suffice to show what Semkovsky’s arguments are like.

“What are we to do,” he writes, “if the Polish proletariat desires to fight side by side with the entire Russian proletariat, within the limits of a single state, while the reactionary classes of Polish society, on the contrary, desire to separate Poland from Russia and in a referendum obtain a majority of votes in favour of secession? Should we Russian Social Democrats in the central parliament vote together with our Polish comrades *against* secession or—in order not to violate the ‘right to self-determination’—vote *for* secession?” (*Novaya Rabochaya Gazeta*, No 71.)

Hence it is clear that Mr Semkovsky does not even understand *what the discussion is about*. It did not occur to him that the right to secession presupposes the settlement of the question *not* by the central parliament, but by the parliament (diet, referendum, etc.) of the seceding region.

The childish perplexity over the question—"What are we to do" if under democracy the majority is for reaction?—serves to screen the question of real, actual, live politics, when *both* the Purishkeviches *and* the Kokoshkins consider the very idea of secession criminal!\* Probably, the proletarians of the *whole* of Russia ought not to fight the Purishkeviches and the Kokoshkins today, but leave them alone and fight the reactionary classes of Poland!

Such is the incredible nonsense that is written in the organ of the liquidators, of which Mr L. Martov is one of the ideological leaders, the same L. Martov who drafted the programme and got it carried in 1903, and even subsequently wrote in favour of the right of secession. Apparently L. Martov is now arguing according to the rule

No clever man required there  
Better send Read  
And I shall wait and see<sup>1</sup>

He sends "Read" Semkovsky, and allows our programme to be distorted and endlessly confused in the daily papers before new sections of readers, who are unacquainted with our programme

Yes, liquidationism has gone a long way—even very many prominent ex-Social Democrats have not a trace of Party spirit left in them

Rosa Luxemburg cannot, of course, be put on a par with the Liebmanns, Yurkeviches and Semkovskys, but the fact that it is precisely people of this kind who clutch at her mistake shows with particular clarity the opportunism she has lapsed into

## X CONCLUSION

To sum up

From the point of view of the theory of Marxism in general, the question of the right of self-determination presents no diffi-

<sup>1</sup> A verse from a soldiers' song, attributed to the pen of Leo Tolstoy, and sung in derision of General Read, who proved a failure in the Crimean War of 1855.—*Ed. Eng. ed.*

oulties There can be no serious thought of disputing either the London decision of 1896, or that self determination implies only the right to secession, or that the formation of independent national states is the tendency of all bourgeois democratic revolutions

The difficulty is created to a certain extent by the fact that in Russia the proletariat of both the oppressed and oppressing nations are fighting and must fight side by side The task is to preserve the unity of the class struggle of the proletariat for socialism, to offer resistance to all the bourgeois and Black Hundred influences of nationalism Among the oppressed nations the separation of the proletariat as an independent party sometimes leads to such a bitter struggle against the nationalism of the respective nation that the perspective becomes distorted and the nationalism of the oppressing nation is forgotten

But this distortion of the perspective is possible only for a short time The experience of the joint struggle of the proletarians of various nations has demonstrated only too plainly that we must raise political questions not from the "Cracow," but from the all Russian point of view And in all Russian politics it is the Purishkeviches and the Kokoshkins who rule Their ideas are predominant, their persecution of alien races for "separatism," for their *thoughts* of secession, are being preached and practised in the Duma, in the schools, in the churches, in the barracks, in hundreds and thousands of newspapers It is this Great Russian canker of nationalism that is poisoning the entire all Russian political atmosphere The misfortune of a nation subjugating other nations is strengthening reaction throughout Russia The memories of 1849 and 1863 form a living political tradition, which, unless storms take place on a very great scale, threatens to hamper every democratic and *especially* every Social Democratic movement for many decades

There can be no doubt that, however natural the point of view of certain Marxists of the oppressed nations (whose "misfortune" is sometimes that the masses of the population are blinded by the idea of "their" national liberation) may appear sometimes, in *reality*, owing to the objective relation of class forces in Russia,

the refusal to advocate the right of self determination is equal to the worst opportunism, the contamination of the proletariat with the ideas of the Kokoshkins. And in substance these ideas are the ideas and the policy of the Purishkeviches.

Therefore, while Rosa Luxemburg's point of view could at first be excused as being specifically Polish, "Cracow" narrow mindedness,<sup>1</sup> at the present time, when nationalism and, above all, governmental Great Russian nationalism has grown stronger every where, when politics are being shaped by this *Great Russian* nationalism, such narrow mindedness becomes inexcusable. In fact, this narrow mindedness is clutched at by the opportunists of *all* nations who fight shy of the ideas of "storms" and "leaps," believe the bourgeois democratic revolution is over, and reach out for the liberalism of the Kokoshkins.

Great Russian nationalism, like any other nationalism, passes through various phases, according to the various classes in the bourgeois country that are supreme at the time. Before 1905 we knew almost exclusively national reactionaries. After the revolution *national liberals* arose in our country.

In our country this is virtually the position adopted both by the Octobrists and by the Cadets (Kokoshkin), *i.e.*, by the whole of the modern bourgeoisie.

And later on, Great Russian national democrats will *inevitably* arise. Mr. Peshekhonov, one of the founders of the "Narodni Socialist" Party, expressed this point of view when (in the August issue of *Russkoye Bogatstvo*<sup>2</sup> for 1906) he appealed for caution in regard to the nationalist prejudices of the peasant. However much others may slander us Bolsheviks and declare that we "idealise" the peasant, we always have made and always will make a clear distinction between peasant intelligence and peasant

<sup>1</sup> It is easy to understand that the recognition by the Marxists of the *whole of Russia* and first and foremost by the Great Russians, of the *right* of nations to secede in no way precludes agitation against secession by Marxists of a particular *oppressed* nation, just as the recognition of the right to divorce does not preclude agitation against divorce in a particular case. We think, therefore, that there will be an ever increasing number of Polish Marxists who will laugh at the non-existent 'contradiction,' which is now being "warmed up" by Semkovsky and Trotsky.

<sup>2</sup> *Russian Wealth*—Ed. Eng. ed.

prejudice, between peasant democracy as opposed to Purishkevich and peasant strivings to make peace with the priest and the land lord

Even now, and probably for a fairly long time to come,<sup>1</sup> proletarian democracy must reckon with the nationalism of the Great Russian peasants (not in the sense of concessions, but in the sense of struggle) The awakening of nationalism among the oppressed nations, which became so pronounced after 1905 (let us recall, say, the group of "autonomists federalists" in the First Duma, the growth of the Ukrainian movement, of the Moslem movement, etc.), will inevitably cause the intensification of nationalism among the Great Russian petty bourgeoisie in town and country The more slowly the democratisation of Russia proceeds, the more persistent, brutal and bitter will national persecution and quarrelling among the bourgeoisie of the various nations be The particularly reactionary spirit of the Russian Purishkeviches will at the same time generate (and strengthen) "separatist" tendencies among the various oppressed nationalities which sometimes enjoy far greater freedom in the neighbouring states

Such a state of affairs sets the proletariat of Russia a twofold, or rather a two sided task first, to fight against all nationalism and, above all, against Great Russian nationalism, to recognise not only complete equality of rights for all nations in general, but also equality of rights as regards state construction, i.e., the right of nations to self determination, to secession, and second,

<sup>1</sup> It would be interesting to trace the process of transformation of, for example, nationalism in Poland from *szlachta* nationalism into bourgeois nationalism and then into peasant nationalism Ludwig Bernhard, in his book *Das polnische Gemeinwesen im preussischen Staat* [*The Polish Community in the Prussian State*] (there is a Russian translation entitled *Poles in Prussia*), sharing the view of a German Kokoshkin, describes a very characteristic phenomenon the formation of a kind of "peasant republic" by the Poles of Germany in the form of a close alliance of the various co-operatives and other associations of the *Polish* peasants in their struggle for nationality, for religion, for "Polish" land German oppression welded the Poles together, isolated them, first awakened the nationalism of the *szlachta*, then of the bourgeoisie, and finally of the peasant masses (especially after the campaign the Germans inaugurated in 1873 against the Polish language in schools) Things are moving in the same direction in Russia, and not only in regard to Poland



precisely in the interests of the successful struggle against the nationalism of all nations, in all forms, it sets the task of preserving the unity of the proletarian struggle and of the proletarian organisations, of amalgamating these organisations into an international community, in spite of the bourgeois strivings for national segregation

Complete equality of rights for all nations, the right of nations to self determination, the amalgamation of the workers of all nations—this is the national programme that Marxism, the experience of the whole world, and the experience of Russia, teaches the workers

February 1914



PART V

PROBLEMS OF THE INTERNATIONAL REVOLUTIONARY  
MOVEMENT IN THE PERIOD  
1908 1914



## INFLAMMABLE MATERIAL IN WORLD POLITICS\*

THE revolutionary movement in the various states of Europe and Asia has manifested itself so formidably of late that we can discern quite clearly the outlines of a new and incomparably higher stage in the international struggle of the proletariat

In Persia, a counter revolution has taken place, which in a peculiar way combined the Russian dispersal of the First Duma with the Russian uprising at the end of 1905 \*\* The armies of the Russian tsar, shamefully defeated by the Japanese, are taking revenge by zealously serving the counter revolution The exploits of shootings, punitive expeditions, bludgeoning and robberies in Russia are followed by the exploits of the same Cossacks in suppressing the revolution in Persia That Nicholas Romanov, at the head of the Black Hundred landlords and the capitalists who have been frightened by strikes and civil war, should be raging against the Persian revolutionaries is understandable, and it is not the first time that the Christ loving Russian warriors are playing the role of international executioners The fact that England, pharisaically washing her hands, is maintaining an obviously friendly neutrality towards the Persian reactionaries and adherents of absolutism is a phenomenon of a somewhat different order The liberal English bourgeois, irritated by the growth of the labour movement at home, and frightened by the rise of the revolutionary struggle in India, are more frequently, more frankly and more sharply revealing how *brutal* the most civilised European "statesmen," who have passed through the highest school of constitutionalism, become when the masses are roused for the struggle against capital and against the capitalist colonial system, *i.e.*, the system of slavery, plunder and violence The position of the Persian revolutionaries in the land which the masters of India

and the counter revolutionary government of Russia are already preparing to divide between them is a difficult one. But the stubborn struggle in Tabriz, the repeated turn of the fortunes of war to the side of the revolutionaries, who seemed to have been utterly routed, shows that the bashi bazuks of the Shah, even with the aid of the Lyakhovs<sup>1</sup> and the English diplomats, are meeting with the most determined resistance from below. A revolutionary movement which can put up military resistance to attempts at restoration, which compels the heroes of such attempts to turn to foreigners for assistance, cannot be destroyed and, under such circumstances, the complete triumph of Persian reaction would merely be the prelude to fresh outbursts of popular indignation.

In Turkey, the revolutionary movement in the army, under the leadership of the Young Turks, proved victorious. True, this victory is only half a victory or even less, because the Turkish Nicholas II<sup>2</sup> so far has escaped with a promise to restore the famous Turkish constitution.\* But such half victories in revolutions, such concessions on the part of the old government hastily ceded under pressure, are the surest pledge of new, far more decisive and acute vicissitudes of civil war involving broader masses of the people. And the school of civil war does not leave the people unaffected. It is a harsh school, and its complete curriculum inevitably includes the victories of the counter revolution, the debaucheries of enraged reactionaries, savage punishments meted out by the old governments to the rebels, etc. But only downright pedants and mentally decrepit mummies can grieve over the fact that nations are entering this painful school, this school teaches the oppressed classes how to conduct civil war, it teaches how to bring about a victorious revolution, it concentrates in the masses of present day slaves that hatred which is always harboured by the downtrodden, dull, ignorant slaves, and which leads those slaves who have become conscious of the shame of their slavery to the greatest historic exploits.

<sup>1</sup> Lyakhov, commander of the brigade of Russian Cossacks which suppressed the revolution in Persia. See note to page 297 \*\*—Ed Eng ed,

<sup>2</sup> I.e., The Turkish Sultan, Abdul Hamid.—Ed

In India the native slaves of the "civilised" British capitalists have recently been causing their "masters" a lot of unpleasantness and disquietude \* There is no end to the violence and plunder which is called British Rule in India. Nowhere in the world, with the exception of Russia, of course, is there such poverty among the masses and such chronic starvation among the population. The most liberal and radical statesmen in free Britain, like John Morley, who is an authority in the eyes of Russian and non-Russian Cadets, the star of the "progressive" (in fact, lackeys of capital) publicists, are, as rulers of India, becoming transformed into real Genghis Khans, capable of sanctioning all measures for "pacifying" the population in their charge, even the flogging of political protestants. The little British Social Democratic weekly *Justice* is prohibited in India by liberal and "radical" scoundrels like Morley. And when Keir Hardie, the leader of the Independent Labour Party and member of Parliament, had the presumption to go to India and talk to the natives about the elementary demands of democracy, the whole of the English bourgeois press raised a howl against the "rebel." And now the most influential English newspapers, gnashing their teeth, are talking about the "agitators" who are disturbing the peace of India, and are welcoming the purely Russian Plehve<sup>1</sup> sentences pronounced by the courts and the summary punishment meted out to Indian democratic publicists. But the Indian masses are beginning to come out into the streets in defence of their native writers and political leaders. The despicable sentence that the English jackals passed on the Indian Democrat, Tilak (he was sentenced to a long term of exile, and in reply to a question in the House of Commons it was revealed that the Indian jurymen voted for acquittal, whereas the conviction was passed by the votes of the English jurymen!), this act of vengeance against a democrat on the part of the lackeys of the moneybags, gave rise to street demonstrations and a strike in Bombay. And the Indian

<sup>1</sup> Plehve, Minister of the Interior in 1902-04, an outstanding reactionary and brutal suppressor of the revolutionary movement. Assassinated in 1904 — *Ed. Eng. ed.*

proletariat too has already matured sufficiently to wage a class conscious and political mass struggle—and that being the case, Anglo Russian methods in India are played out By their colonial plunder of Asiatic countries, the Europeans have managed to harden one of them, Japan, for great military victories which ensured her independent national development There is not the slightest doubt that the age long plunder of India by the English, that the present struggle of these “advanced” Europeans against Persian and Indian democracy *will harden* millions and tens of millions of proletarians of Asia, will harden them for the same kind of victorious (like the Japanese) struggle against the oppressors The class conscious workers of Europe now have Asiatic comrades and their number will grow by leaps and bounds

In China, the revolutionary movement against mediævalism has also made itself felt with particular force during the last few months \* Nothing definite, it is true, can as yet be said about this particular movement—so little information is available about it and such an abundance of rumours about revolts in various parts of China—but there cannot be any doubt about the rapid growth of a “new spirit” and of “European tendencies” in China, especially after the Russo Japanese war, hence, the transformation of the old Chinese riots into a conscious democratic movement is inevitable That some of the participants in the colonial plunder have become disturbed this time is seen from the behaviour of the French in Indo China, they have *helped* the Chinese “*historical government*” to mete out punishment to the revolutionaries<sup>1</sup> They were apprehensive for the integrity of “their own” neighbouring *Asiatic possessions*

But it is not only the Asiatic possessions that give cause for apprehension to the French bourgeoisie The barricades in Villeteneuve Saint Georges, near Paris, the shooting down of the strikers who put up these barricades (Thursday, July 30 [17] ), these events have indicated again and again the intensification of the class struggle in Europe \*\* Clemenceau, the radical, who is ruling France on behalf of the capitalists, is doing his very best to dissipate the last remnants of the republican bourgeois illusions held by the proletariat The shooting down of the workers by the



troops acting on the order of the "radical" government has certainly become a more frequent occurrence under Clemenceau than ever before. For this, Clemenceau has already been nicknamed "Red Clemenceau" by the French Socialists and now, when the blood of the workers has again been shed by his agents, *gendarmes* and generals, the Socialists are recalling the winged word once uttered by this most progressive bourgeois republican to a workers' delegation "We stand on opposite sides of the barricade." Yes, certainly, the French proletariat and the most extreme bourgeois republicans are finally taking up positions on opposite sides of the barricade. The working class of France has shed much blood in winning and defending the republic, and at the present time, on the basis of the thoroughly consolidated republican regime, the decisive struggle between the property owners and the toilers is approaching more and more rapidly. *L'Humanite*<sup>1</sup> wrote about July 30 [17] "This was not a mere beating up, it was a miniature battle." The generals and the police agents wanted at all costs to provoke the workers and transform a peaceful unarmed demonstration into a massacre. But, having surrounded the strikers and demonstrators on all sides and attacked the unarmed people, the troops encountered resistance, with the result that barricades were immediately erected, leading to events which are agitating the whole of France. These barricades made of small planks were ridiculously poor, writes the same newspaper. But that is not the point. The point is that under the Third Republic\* barricades had dropped out of use. Now "Clemenceau is once more bringing them into use," and in this connection he is just as frank in his arguments as the "executioners of June 1848 and Gallifet in 1871" when they spoke of civil war.<sup>2</sup>

And the Socialist press is not alone in recalling these great historic dates in connection with the events of July 30 [17].

The bourgeois newspapers attack the workers with frantic fury and accuse them of having behaved as if they intended to start a socialist revolution. And one of these newspapers relates a small

<sup>1</sup> The central organ of the United Socialist Party of France. Now the central organ of the French Communist Party—*Ed*

<sup>2</sup> See note to page 800 \*\*—*Ed Eng ed*

but characteristic incident depicting the mood of both parties at the scene of action. When the workers were carrying one of their wounded comrades past General Virvera, who was leading the attack upon the strikers, shouts were heard from the crowd of demonstrators "Saluez!" And the general of the bourgeois republic saluted the wounded enemy.

An intensification of the struggle between the proletariat and the bourgeoisie may be observed in all the advanced capitalist countries, and the difference in the historical conditions, political regime and forms of the labour movement creates the difference in the manifestations of one and the same tendency. In America and England, where there is complete political liberty, and where live, revolutionary and socialist traditions are completely, or at all events, almost completely lacking among the working class, this intensification is manifested in the intensification of the movement against the trusts, in the extraordinary growth of Socialism and in the growing attention being paid to it by the propertyed classes, and in the fact that the labour organisations, sometimes the purely industrial organisations, are taking up the systematic and independent proletarian political struggle. In Austria and Germany, partly also in the Scandinavian countries, the intensification of the class struggle is expressed in the election campaigns, in the relations between the parties, in the *rapprochement* between the bourgeoisie of various shades against their common foe, the proletariat, and in the intensification of police and legal persecution. Two hostile camps are slowly but surely increasing their forces, are strengthening their organisations and are separating with increasing sharpness in all fields of public life, as if silently and intently preparing for the impending revolutionary battles. In the Latin countries—in Italy, especially in France—the intensification of the class struggle is expressed in particularly stormy, sharp, and to some extent directly revolutionary outbreaks, in which the pent up hatred of the proletariat for its oppressors bursts out with sudden violence and the "peaceful" environment of the parliamentary struggle is supplanted by scenes of real civil war.

The international revolutionary movement of the proletariat

does not proceed and cannot proceed evenly and in the same form in different countries. The thorough and all-sided utilisation of all possibilities in all spheres of activity comes only as a result of the class struggle of the workers of various countries. Every country contributes its own valuable original traits to the general stream, but in every individual country the movement suffers from some kind of one-sidedness, from some theoretical or practical shortcoming in the individual Socialist Parties. On the whole, we clearly see that international Socialism has made an enormous stride forward, we see the welding together of the armies of millions of proletarians in a number of concrete encounters with the enemy, we see the approach of the decisive struggle against the bourgeoisie—a struggle for which the working class is immeasurably better *prepared* than was the case at the time of the Paris Commune, that last great rebellion of the proletarians.

And this stride forward by the whole of international Socialism, together with the sharpening of the revolutionary democratic struggle in Asia, places the Russian revolution in a peculiar and particularly difficult position. The Russian revolution possesses a great international ally both in Europe and in Asia, but at the same time, and *just because of this*, it possesses not only a national, not only a Russian, but also an *international* enemy. Reaction against the intensifying struggle of the proletariat is inevitable in all the capitalist countries, and this reaction unites the bourgeois governments of the whole world against any popular movement, against any revolution in Asia, and especially in Europe. The opportunists in our Party, like the majority of the Russian liberal intelligentsia, still dream of a bourgeois revolution in Russia that will neither “repel” nor scare the bourgeoisie, that will neither generate “extreme” reaction, nor lead to the capture of power by the revolutionary classes. Van hopes! A phylistine utopia! Inflammable material is accumulating so rapidly in all the progressive countries of the world, the conflagration is so obviously spreading to the majority of the countries of Asia, which but yesterday were fast asleep, that the strengthening of the international bourgeois reaction and the intensification of each individual national revolution are absolutely inevitable.

The counter revolution in Russia is not fulfilling, and cannot fulfil, the historical tasks of our revolution. The Russian bourgeoisie is inevitably gravitating more and more to the side of the international anti proletarian and anti democratic tendency. It is not on liberal allies that the Russian proletariat must count. It must follow its own path independently, towards the complete victory of the revolution, and base itself on the need for a forcible solution of the agrarian problem in Russia by the peasant masses themselves. It must help these masses to overthrow the rule of the Black Hundred landlords and of the Black Hundred autocracy, it must set itself the task of establishing the democratic dictatorship of the proletariat and the peasantry in Russia and bear in mind that its struggle and its victories are indissolubly bound up with the international revolutionary movement. Fewer illusions concerning the liberalism of the counter revolutionary bourgeoisie (in Russia and in the entire world). More attention to the growth of the international revolutionary proletariat!

August [July] 1908 -

## DEMOCRACY AND NARODISM IN CHINA\*

THE article written by the provisional President of the Chinese Republic, Sun Yat sen, which we reprint from the Brussels Socialist newspaper, *Le Peuple*, is of exceptional interest for us Russians

As the proverb says the onlooker sees most of the game Sun Yat sen is an exceedingly interesting "onlooker," because, while he is an educated man in the European sense of the word, he is, apparently, totally uninformed about Russia And now this man with a European education, the representative of militant and victorious Chinese democracy which has won a republic for itself, raises before us—quite independently of Russia, of Russian experience, of Russian literature—purely Russian questions The progressive Chinese demoprat talks exactly like a Russian His similarity to the Russian Narodnik is so great that his fundamental ideas and a number of his expressions are completely identical with the latter's.

The onlooker sees most of the game The platform of the great Chinese democracy—for Sun Yat sen's article is precisely such a platform—compels us and gives us a convenient opportunity once more to consider the question of the relation between democracy and Narodism in the present day bourgeois revolutions of Asia from the angle of new world events Thus is one of the most serious questions that confronted Russia in its revolutionary epoch which began in 1905 And it not only confronted Russia, but the whole of Asia, as is evident from the platform of the provisional President of the Chinese Republic, especially if we compare this platform with the development of revolutionary events in Russia, Turkey, Persia and China<sup>1</sup> In very many and

<sup>1</sup> See preceding article, "Inflammable Material in World Politics," and notes to same—Ed

very essential respects Russia is undoubtedly an Asiatic country, and, moreover, one of the wildest, most mediæval and shamefully backward of Asiatic countries

Russian bourgeois democracy has been dyed a Narodnik colour from the days of its distant and lonely pioneer, the nobleman, Herzen, down to its mass representatives, the members of the Peasant League of 1905 and the Trudovik deputies in the first three Dumas of 1906 12 Now we observe that bourgeois democracy in China is dyed exactly the same Narodnik colour Let us now consider, with Sun Yat sen as an example, the social significance of the ideas generated by the profound revolutionary movement of hundreds and hundreds of millions of people who are now being completely drawn into the stream of world capitalist civilisation

A militant, sincere spirit of democracy pervades every line of Sun Yat sen's platform It reveals a thorough appreciation of the inadequacy of a "racial" revolution It does not betray a trace of the non political spirit, or of indifference towards political liberty, or any admission of the idea that Chinese autocracy is compatible with Chinese "social reform," with Chinese constitutional reforms, etc It is the expression of complete democracy and the demand for a republic It directly presents the question of the conditions of the masses, of the mass struggle, it expresses warm sympathy for the toilers and the exploited, belief in the justice of their cause and in their strength

What we have before us is a really great ideology of a really great people, which is able not only to bemoan its age-long slavery, not only to dream of liberty and equality, but is able also to *fight* the age long oppressors of China

A comparison naturally suggests itself between the provisional President of the Republic in wild, dead Asiatic China and the various presidents of the republics in Europe and America, in countries of progressive culture The presidents in *those* republics are all businessmen, agents or tools in the hands of the bourgeoisie, which is rotten to the core and besmirched from head to foot with mud and blood, not with the blood of emperors and potentates, but with the blood of workers shot down in strikes in

the name of progress and civilisation. The presidents in those countries are the representatives of the bourgeoisie, which very long ago renounced all the ideals of its youth, which has utterly prostituted itself, sold itself body and soul to the millionaires and billionaires, to the feudal rulers turned bourgeois, and others.

In China, the Asiatic provisional President of the Republic is a revolutionary democrat imbued with the nobility and heroism that is inherent in a class that is in the ascendancy and not on the decline, which does not fear the future, but believes in it and bravely fights for it—a class which, instead of striving to preserve and restore the past in order to safeguard its privileges, hates the past and knows how to discard its deadening decay, which strangles every living thing.

Well, does this mean that the materialist West is utterly decayed, that light shines only from the mystic, religious East? No, just the opposite. It means that the East has finally struck the path of the West, that new *hundreds and hundreds of millions of people* will henceforth take part in the struggle for the ideals which the West has worked out. The Western bourgeoisie has decayed and is already being confronted by its grave diggers—the proletariat. But in Asia there *still* exists a bourgeoisie capable of representing sincere, militant, consistent democracy, a worthy companion of the great preachers and great public men of the end of the eighteenth century in France.

The chief representative or the main social support of this Asiatic bourgeoisie, which is still capable of performing historically progressive deeds, is the peasant. By his side there already exists a liberal bourgeoisie, whose politicians, like Yuan Shih kai, are, above all, capable of treachery: yesterday they feared the emperor, cringed before him, then, when they saw the strength and sensed the victory of revolutionary democracy, they betrayed the emperor, tomorrow they will betray the democrats in order to strike a bargain with some old or new "constitutional" emperor.

The real liberation of the Chinese people from age long slavery would be impossible were it not for the great, sincere democratic enthusiasm which is stirring the toiling masses and rendering

them capable of performing miracles, an enthusiasm such as is manifested in every phrase of Sun Yat sen's platform

But the Chinese Narodnik combines this ideology of militant democracy, in the first place, with socialist dreams, with the hope that China will be able to avoid the path of capitalism, prevent capitalism, and in the second place, with the plan and the propaganda of radical agrarian reform. It is precisely these two last named ideological political tendencies that represent the element which constitutes *Narodism* in the specific sense of that word, *i.e.*, as distinct from democracy, as a supplement to democracy

What are the origin and significance of these tendencies?

Chinese democracy would not have been able to overthrow the old order in China and establish a republic had it not been for the tremendous spiritual and revolutionary enthusiasm displayed by the masses. Such enthusiasm presupposes and rouses the most sincere sympathy for the labouring masses and the bitterest hatred for their oppressors and exploiters. And in Europe and America, whence the progressive Chinese, *all* the Chinese who have felt that enthusiasm, have borrowed their ideas of liberation, emancipation from the bourgeoisie, *i.e.*, socialism, is on the order of the day. This inevitably rouses the sympathy of the Chinese democrats for socialism, gives rise to their *subjective* socialism.

They are subjectively socialists because they are opposed to the oppression and exploitation of the masses. But the *objective* conditions of China, of a backward, agricultural, semi-feudal country, place on the order of the day, in the lives of a nation numbering nearly half a billion, only one definite, historically peculiar form of this oppression and exploitation, namely, feudalism. Feudalism was based on the predominance of agricultural life and of natural economy, the source of the feudal exploitation of the Chinese peasant was the *attachment* of the peasant, in some form or other, to the land, those who politically expressed this exploitation were the feudal rulers, jointly and severally, with the emperor as head of the whole system.

And now it turns out that out of the subjective socialist ideas and programmes of a Chinese democrat there arises in fact a programme "of changing all the juridical foundations" *only of*



"immovable property," a programme of the destruction of feudal exploitation *only*

This is the *essence* of Sun Yat sen's Narodism, his progressive, militant, revolutionary programme of bourgeois democratic agrarian reform and his quasi socialist theory

This theory, if it is to be considered from the standpoint of a doctrine, is the theory of a petty bourgeois "socialist" reactionary. Because the dream of the possibility of "preventing" capitalism in China, of greater facilities for a "social revolution" in China because of her backwardness, etc., is altogether reactionary. And Sun Yat sen himself with inimitable, one might say, virgin naivete, utterly smashes his own reactionary Narodnik theory when he admits what life forces him to admit, namely, that "China is on the eve of a gigantic industrial" (*i.e.*, capitalist) "development," that in China "trade" (*i.e.*, capitalism) "will develop to an enormous extent," that "in fifty years we shall have many Shanghaies," *i.e.*, centres teeming with capitalist riches and proletarian need and poverty

But the question is—and this is the crux of the matter, its most interesting point, which frequently baffles truncated and emasculated liberal quasi Marxism—whether, *on the basis of his* reactionary economic theory, Sun Yat sen advocates a really reactionary agrarian programme

The whole point is that he does not. It is precisely in this that the dialectics of the social relations in China reveals itself. While sincerely in sympathy with socialism in Europe, the Chinese democrats have transformed it into a reactionary theory, and *on the basis of this* reactionary theory of "preventing" capitalism, they advocate a *purely capitalist*, a maximum capitalist, agrarian programme!

Indeed, what does the "economic revolution," about which Sun Yat sen talks so pompously and obscurely at the beginning of his article, amount to?

To the transfer of rent to the state, *i.e.*, to land nationalisation, by some sort of single tax, similar to that advocated by Henry George. There is absolutely nothing else that is *real* in the "economic revolution" proposed and preached by Sun Yat sen

The difference between the value of land in some out of the way village and in Shanghai is the difference in the level of rent. The value of land is capitalised rent. To make the "enhanced value" of land the "property of the people" means transferring the rent, *i.e.*, property in land, to the state, or in other words, nationalising the land.

Is such a reform possible within the framework of capitalism? It is not only possible, it represents the purest, most consistent, ideally perfect capitalism. Marx pointed this out in his *Poverty of Philosophy*, he proved it in detail in Volume III of *Capital*, and he developed this idea with particular clarity in his polemics with Rodbertus in *Theories of Surplus Value* \*.

Land nationalisation makes it possible to abolish absolute rent, leaving only differential rent. According to the tenets of Marx, land nationalisation means the utmost elimination of mediæval monopolies and mediæval relations in agriculture, maximum freedom in disposing of land, maximum facility for agriculture to adapt itself to the market. By the irony of history, Narodism, in the name of the "struggle against capitalism" in agriculture, advocates an agrarian programme which, if fully realised, would mean the *most* rapid development of capitalism in agriculture.

What was the economic necessity that caused the spread of the most progressive bourgeois democratic agrarian programmes in one of the most backward peasant countries of Asia? The necessity of destroying feudalism in all its forms and manifestations.

The more China lagged behind Europe and Japan, the more it was threatened with disintegration and national decay. It could only be "regenerated" by the heroism of the revolutionary masses of the people, by a heroism capable of creating a Chinese republic in the sphere of politics, and of ensuring the most rapid capitalist progress by means of land nationalisation in the agrarian sphere.

Whether and to what extent this will succeed is another question. Various countries in their bourgeois revolutions have achieved various degrees of political and agrarian democracy, and in the most diverse combinations. The deciding factors will be the international situation and the relation of social forces in China.

*The emperor will surely unite the feudal rulers, the bureaucracy and the Chinese clergy and prepare for restoration Yuan Shih kai, the representative of the bourgeoisie, which has only just changed from liberal monarchist to liberal republican (for how long?), will pursue a policy of manœuvring between monarchy and revolution Revolutionary bourgeois democracy represented by Sun Yat sen is correctly seeking the path to the "regeneration" of China in the development of the maximum of initiative, resoluteness and boldness of the peasant masses in the matter of political and agrarian reforms*

Finally, to the extent that the number of Shanghais increases in China, the Chinese proletariat will increase as well It will probably form some sort of Chinese Social Democratic Labour Party, which, while criticising the petty bourgeois utopias and reactionary views of Sun Yat sen, will certainly take care to single out, defend and develop the revolutionary democratic core of his political and agrarian programme

July 1912

## REGENERATED CHINA\*

PROGRESSIVE and civilised Europe takes no interest in the regeneration of China. Four hundred million backward Asiatics have achieved freedom, have awakened to political life. *One fourth* of the population of the globe has passed, so to speak, from slumber to light, to movement, to struggle.

Civilised Europe is not concerned with this. Up to the present moment not even the French Republic has officially recognised the Chinese Republic! An interpellation on this subject will soon be introduced in the French Chamber of Deputies.

How can Europe's indifference to this be explained? By the fact that everywhere in the West the rule of the imperialist bourgeoisie prevails, the rule of a bourgeoisie which is almost rotten to the core and ready to sell its entire "civilisation" to any adventurer in return for "strict" measures against the workers, or for an extra five kopeks' profit on the ruble. This bourgeoisie regards China *only* as booty, which now, after Russia has taken Mongolia into her "tender embraces,"\*\* will probably be torn to pieces by the Japanese, the British, the Germans, etc.

Yet the regeneration of China is proceeding apace. At the present time parliamentary elections are beginning—elections for the *first* parliament of the former despotic state. The Lower Chamber will consist of 600 members, the "Senate" of 274.

The suffrage is *neither* universal *nor* direct. The right to vote is enjoyed only by those who are over twenty-one years of age and have been resident in the given constituency for not less than two years, provided they pay direct taxes to an amount equal to about 2 rubles, or possess property worth about 500 rubles. They first elect electors who, in their turn, elect the deputies.

This system of franchise in itself indicates the existence of an alliance of the well-to-do peasantry with the bourgeoisie, while a proletariat is either non-existent or is quite impotent.

This is also indicated by the character of the political parties in China. There are three main parties:

1) The "Radical Socialist Party," which in reality is *altogether devoid* of socialism, just like our "Narodni Socialists" (and nine tenths of the "Socialist Revolutionaries")

It is the party of petty bourgeois *democracy*. Its principal demands are the political unity of China, the development of trade and industries "in a social direction" (a phrase as nebulous as the "labour principle" and "equalisation" used by our Narodniki and Socialist Revolutionaries), the preservation of peace.

2) The second party is that of the liberals. They are in alliance with the "Radical Socialist Party" and together with the latter form the "*National Party*." In all probability this party will obtain a majority in the first Chinese parliament. The leader of this party is the celebrated Dr. Sun Yat sen. At the present time he is particularly engaged in working out a plan for an extensive network of railways (we may mention for the benefit of the Russian Narodniki that Sun Yat sen is doing this *so that* China may "avoid" the fate of capitalism).

3) The third party is called the "League of Republicans"—an example of how deceptive signboards are in politics! In reality this is a *conservative* party, which depends principally on government officials, landlords and the bourgeoisie of *Northern* China, *i.e.*, the most backward part of the country. The "National Party," on the other hand, is mainly the party of the more industrial, more progressive and more developed *Southern* China.

The "National Party" obtains its main support from the wide *masses of the peasants*. Its leaders are the intelligentsia who have been educated abroad.

Chinese freedom has been won by the alliance of peasant democracy with the liberal bourgeoisie. The near future will show whether the peasants, without the leadership of a proletarian party, will succeed in holding their democratic position *against* the liberals, who are only waiting for the opportune moment to desert to the Right.\*

## THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST CONGRESS IN STUTTGART\*

THE Stuttgart Congress held recently was the twelfth congress of the proletarian International. The first five congresses belong to the period of the First International (1866-72), which was guided by Marx, who, as Bebel aptly observed, tried to unite the militant proletariat internationally from above. This attempt could not be successful before the national Socialist Parties were consolidated and strengthened, but the activities of the First International rendered great services to the labour movement of all countries and left lasting traces.

The Second International was inaugurated at the International Socialist Congress in Paris in 1889. At the subsequent congresses in Brussels (1891), in Zürich (1893), in London (1896), in Paris (1900), and in Amsterdam (1904), this new International, resting on strong national parties, was finally consolidated. In Stuttgart there were 884 delegates from 25 nations of Europe, Asia (Japan and some from India), America, Australia and Africa (there was one delegate from South Africa).

The great importance of the International Socialist Congress in Stuttgart lies in the fact that it marked the final consolidation of the Second International and the transformation of International congresses into business-like meetings which exercise very considerable influence on the character and the tendency of Socialist work throughout the world. Formally, the decisions of the International congresses are not binding on the individual nations, but their moral importance is such that the non-observance of decisions is, in practice, an exception which occurs almost less frequently than the non-observance by the individual Parties of the decisions of their own congresses. The Amsterdam Congress succeeded in uniting the French Socialists, and its resolution

against "ministerialism," in effect, expressed the will of the class conscious proletariat of the whole world and determined the policy of the working class parties

The Stuttgart Congress made a big stride forward in the same direction, and on very many important questions it proved to be the supreme body that determines the political line of socialism. The Stuttgart Congress, more firmly than the Amsterdam Congress, determined this line in the spirit of revolutionary Social Democracy against opportunism. The organ of the German Social Democratic working women, *Die Gleichheit* (*Equality*), edited by Clara Zetkin, justly observed in this connection

"On all questions the various deviations of certain Socialist Parties towards opportunism were corrected in a revolutionary sense with the co-operation of the Socialists of all countries"

The remarkable and sad feature in this connection was that German Social Democracy, which hitherto had always upheld the revolutionary standpoint in Marxism, proved to be unstable, or occupied an opportunist position. The Stuttgart Congress confirmed a profound observation uttered by Engels on the German labour movement. On April 29, 1886, Engels wrote to Sorge, a veteran of the First International, as follows

"In general, it is a good thing that the leadership of the Germans is being challenged somewhat, especially since they have elected so many philistine elements (which is unavoidable, it is true). In Germany everything becomes philistine in calm times: the sting of French competition is thus absolutely necessary

'And it will not be lacking'

The sting of French competition was not lacking at Stuttgart, and this sting proved to be really necessary, for the Germans displayed a good deal of philistinism. It is especially important for the Russian Social Democrats to bear this in mind, for our liberals (and not only the liberals) are doing their utmost to represent precisely the least creditable features of German Social Democracy as a model worthy of imitation. The most thoughtful, sagacious and distinguished leaders of thought of the German Social Democrats have themselves noted this fact and, casting aside all false shame, have definitely pointed it out as a warning.

"In Amsterdam," writes Clara Zetkin's journal, "the revolutionary *leit motif* of all the debates in the parliament of the world proletariat was the Dresden resolution \* in Stuttgart a jarring opportunist note was struck by Vollmar's speeches in the Commission on Militarism by Peplow's speeches in the Emigration Commission, and by David's [and we will add, Bernstein's] speeches in the Colonial Commission \*\* On this occasion, in most of the commissions, on most questions, the representatives of Germany were leaders of opportunism "

And K Kautsky in appraising the Stuttgart Congress writes

" the leading role which German Social Democracy has virtually played in the Second International hitherto did not make itself felt on this occasion "

Let us now pass on to the consideration of the separate questions that were discussed at the congress The differences of opinion on the colonial question could not be smoothed out in the commission The controversy between the opportunists and the revolutionaries was settled by the congress itself, settled in favour of the revolutionaries by a majority of 127 votes against 108, with 10 abstentions Let us incidentally note this welcome feature, that *all* the Socialists of Russia, unanimously, and on *all* questions, voted in a revolutionary spirit (Russia had 20 votes of which 10 were given to the Russian Social Democratic Labour Party not including the Poles, 7 to the Socialist Revolutionaries and 3 to the representatives of the trade unions Poland had 10 votes the Polish Social Democrats—4, and the Polish Socialist Party and the non Russian parts of Poland—6 Finally the two representatives of Finland had 8 votes )

On the colonial question an opportunist majority was formed in the commission, and the following monstrous phrase appeared in the draft resolution "The congress does not on principle and for all time reject all colonial policy, which, under a socialist regime, may exercise a civilising influence" In reality this proposition was equal to a direct retreat to the side of bourgeois policy and bourgeois outlook which justifies colonial wars and atrocities It is a retreat towards Roosevelt, said one of the American delegates The attempts to justify this retreat by talking about the tasks of a "socialist colonial policy" and of the positive work of reform in the colonies were most unfortunate Socialism has never refused and never refuses to advocate reforms in the



colonies as well, but this has nothing to do, nor should it have anything to do, with the weakening of our principle of opposing conquest, the subjugation of other nations, violence and plunder, which constitute "colonial policy." The minimum programme of all the Socialist Parties applies both to the "mother country" and to the colonies. The very concept "socialist colonial policy" is an expression of endless confusion. The congress quite properly deleted the above words from the resolution and substituted for them a still sharper condemnation of colonial policy than that contained in former resolutions.

The resolution on the attitude of the Socialist Parties towards the trade unions is of particularly great importance for us Russians. In our country this question is on the order of the day. The Stockholm Congress settled it in favour of *non Party* trade unions, i.e., it confirmed the position of our partisans of *neutrality*, headed by Plekhanov. The London Congress took a step towards *Party* trade unions as *against* neutrality.\* As is known, the London resolution caused great controversy and dissatisfaction in a section of the trade unions and especially in the bourgeois democratic press.

In Stuttgart, the question raised was essentially as follows: trade union neutrality or closer *rapprochement* between the trade unions and the Party? And, as the reader may gather from the resolution, the International Socialist Congress declared in favour of closer *rapprochement* between the unions and the Party. There is nothing in the resolution to suggest that the trade unions should be neutral or non Party. Kautsky, who in the German Social Democratic Party advocated the *rapprochement* between the unions and the Party as against the neutrality advocated by Bebel, was therefore fully entitled to announce to the Leipzig workers in his report on the Stuttgart Congress (*Vorwärts*, 1907, No. 209, *Beilage*).

"The resolution of the Stuttgart Congress expresses all we want. It puts an end to neutrality for ever."

Clara Zetkin writes

"No one" (in Stuttgart) "any longer disputed on principle the fundamental, historical tendency of the proletarian class struggle to link the political with the economic struggle, to unite the political and economic

organisations as closely as possible into a single socialist working class force. Only the representative of the Russian Social Democrats, Comrade Plekhanov' (she should have said the representative of the Mensheviks, who delegated him to the commission as an advocate of neutrality), 'and the majority of the French delegation attempted, by rather unconvincing arguments, to justify a certain limitation of this principle on the plea that special conditions prevailed in their countries. The overwhelming majority of the congress favoured a resolute policy of unity between Social Democracy and the trade unions."

It should be observed that Plekhanov's unfortunate (according to Zetkin's just opinion) argument went the rounds of the Russian legally published papers in this form. Plekhanov in the commission of the Stuttgart Congress referred to the fact that "in Russia there are eleven revolutionary parties," and asked "With which of them should the trade unions unite?" (We are citing from *Vorwärts*, No 196, I Beilage.) Plekhanov's reference is wrong both in fact and in principle. In reality, not more than two parties in every nationality of Russia are fighting for influence over the socialist proletariat. Social Democrats and Socialist Revolutionaries, the Polish Social Democrats and the Polish Socialist Party, the Lettish Social Democrats and the Lettish Socialist Revolutionaries (the so called Lettish Social Democratic League), the Armenian Social Democrats and the Dashnaksutyuns, etc. The Russian delegation in Stuttgart also at once divided into two sections. The figure eleven is altogether arbitrary and misleads the workers. As regards principles, Plekhanov is wrong because the struggle between proletarian and petty bourgeois socialism in Russia is inevitable everywhere, including the trade unions. The English delegates, for example, did not even think of opposing the resolution, although they, too, have two socialist parties fighting each other—the Social Democratic Federation\* and the Independent Labour Party\*\*.

That the idea of neutrality, which was rejected in Stuttgart, had had time to inflict much damage on the labour movement is seen particularly clearly from the example of Germany. There, neutrality has been preached most and applied most. As a result, the trade unions of Germany have deviated so obviously in the direction of opportunism that this deviation was openly admitted even by a man like Kautsky, who is so cautious on this question.

In his report to the Leipzig workers he directly stated that the "conservatism" shown by the German delegation in Stuttgart "becomes understandable if we bear in mind the composition of this delegation. Half of it consisted of representatives of the trade unions, and thus the 'Right wing' of our Party was more strongly represented than their actual strength in the Party warranted."

The resolution of the Stuttgart Congress will undoubtedly hasten the decisive break of Russian Social Democracy with the idea of neutrality so beloved by our liberals. While observing the necessary caution and gradualness, and without taking any rash or tactless steps, we must work persistently in the trade unions for the purpose of drawing them nearer and nearer to the Social Democratic Party.

Then, on the question of emigration and immigration, a very definite difference of opinion arose between the opportunists and the revolutionaries in the commission of the Stuttgart Congress. The opportunists fostered the idea of *limiting* the right of emigration of the backward uneducated workers—especially the Japanese and the Chinese. In the minds of these opportunists, the spirit of narrow craft seclusion, of trade union exclusiveness, outweighed the realisation of the socialist tasks, *viz.*, the work of educating and organising those strata of the proletariat which have not yet been drawn into the labour movement. The congress rejected everything that smacked of this spirit. Even in the commission there were only a few solitary votes in favour of limiting the freedom of emigration, and the resolution adopted by the International Congress is permeated with the recognition of the solidarity of the workers of all countries in the class struggle.

The resolution on the question of women's suffrage was also passed unanimously. Only one Englishwoman from the semi-bourgeois "Fabian Society" defended the admissibility of a struggle for women's suffrage which was to be limited to those possessing property, instead of a struggle for full women's suffrage. The congress absolutely rejected this and declared in favour of working women conducting the struggle for the franchise, not in conjunction with the bourgeois partisans of women's rights, but in conjunction with the class parties of the proletariat. The congress

recognised that in the campaign for women's suffrage it was necessary to uphold fully the principles of socialism and equal rights for men and women without distorting these principles for the sake of expediency

In this connection an interesting difference of opinion arose in the commission. The Austrians (Victor Adler, Adelheid Popp) justified their tactics in the struggle for manhood suffrage for the sake of winning this suffrage, they thought it expedient in their agitation not to put the demand for women's suffrage in the foreground. The German Social Democrats, and especially Zetkin, had protested against this when the Austrians conducted their campaign for universal suffrage. Zetkin declared in the press that they should not under any circumstances have neglected the demand for women's suffrage, that the Austrians had opportunistically sacrificed principle for the sake of expediency, and that they would not have narrowed the sweep of their agitation, but would have widened it and increased the strength of the popular movement had they with equal energy fought for women's suffrage also. In the commission Zetkin was supported whole-heartedly by an other prominent German woman Social Democrat, Zietz. Adler's amendment, which indirectly justified the Austrian tactics, was rejected by 12 votes to 9 (this amendment merely stated that there should be no abatement of the struggle for a suffrage that would really extend to all citizens, instead of stating that the struggle for suffrage should always be accompanied by the demand for equal rights for men and women). The point of view of the commission and of the congress may be most exactly expressed in the following words uttered by the above mentioned Zietz in her speech at the International Conference of Socialist Women\* (this conference took place in Stuttgart simultaneously with the congress)

"On principle we must demand all that we consider to be correct," said Zietz, "and only when we lack forces for the struggle do we accept what we are able to obtain. Such have always been the tactics of Social Democracy. The more moderate our demands the more moderate will be the government's concessions."

This controversy between the Austrian and German women Social Democrats will enable the reader to see how sternly the best

Marxists regard the slightest deviation from the principles of consistent revolutionary tactics

The last day of the congress was devoted to the question of militarism in which everyone took the greatest interest. The notorious Hervé advocated a very unsound position \* He was unable to connect war with the capitalist regime in general, and anti militarist agitation with the entire work of socialism. Hervé's scheme, to "reply" to any war by a strike and an uprising, revealed an utter lack of understanding of the fact that the application of one or other of the means of struggle depends not on any decision revolutionaries may have made previously but on the objective conditions of the particular crisis, both economic and political, caused by the war

But even though Herve did show that he was light minded, superficial and easily carried away by resonant phrases, it would be extreme shortsightedness to reply to him by a mere dogmatic exposition of the general truths of socialism. Vollmar particularly dropped into this error (of which Bebel and Guesde were not entirely free). With the extraordinary conceit of a man infatuated with stereotyped parliamentarism, he attacked Hervé without noticing that his own narrow mindedness and crusty opportunism *compel* one to recognise the living stream in Hervéism, *in spite* of the theoretical absurdity and folly of the manner in which Hervé himself presents the question. It sometimes happens that at a new turning point of a movement, theoretical absurdities cover up some practical truth. And this aspect of the question, the appeal that not only parliamentary methods of struggle should be valued, the appeal to act in accordance with the new conditions of the future war and the future crisis, was stressed by the revolutionary Social Democrats, especially by Rosa Luxemburg in her speech. Together with the Russian Social Democratic delegates (Lenin and Martov acted in full agreement on this), Rosa Luxemburg proposed amendments to Bebel's resolution, and these amendments emphasised the need for agitation among the youth, the necessity of taking advantage of the crisis created by war for the purpose of hastening the downfall of the bourgeoisie, the necessity of bearing in mind the inevitable change of methods and

means of struggle in accordance with the intensification of the class struggle and the changes in the political situation Bebel's resolution, dogmatically one-sided, dead, and open to a Vollmarian interpretation, was thus finally transformed into an altogether different resolution. All the theoretical truths were repeated in it for the edification of the Hervéists, who are capable of forgetting socialism for the sake of anti militarism. But these truths did not serve as an introduction to a justification of parliamentary cretinism, to the sanction of peaceful methods alone, to the worship of the present relatively peaceful and quiet situation, but to the recognition of all methods of struggle, to the appraisal of the experience of the revolution in Russia, to the development of the active creative aspect of the movement.

Zetkin's journal, to which we have referred more than once, very aptly describes this most outstanding, most important feature of the congress resolution on anti militarism.

"And here too," says Zetkin about the anti militarist resolution 'the revolutionary energy (*Tatkraft*) as well as the courageous faith of the working class in its fighting capacity finally gained a victory over the pessimistic gospel of impotence and the fossilised tendency to confine oneself to old, exclusively parliamentary methods of struggle, as well as over the banal anti militarist sport of the French semi anarchists of the Hervé type. The resolution, which was finally carried unanimously both by the commission and by nearly 900 delegates of all countries, expresses in energetic terms the gigantic upsurge of the revolutionary labour movement since the last International Congress, the resolution advances as a principle of proletarian tactics their flexibility, their capacity for development, *their intensification* (*Zuspitzung*) in proportion as conditions ripen for that purpose."

Hervéism has been rejected, but rejected not in favour of opportunism, not from the point of view of dogmatism and passivity. The keen striving for ever more resolute and new methods of struggle is wholly recognised by the international proletariat and linked up with the intensification of all the economic contradictions, with all the conditions of crises created by capitalism.

Not the empty Hervéist threat, but the clear conviction of the inevitability of the social revolution, firm determination to fight to the end, readiness to adopt the most revolutionary methods of struggle—such is the significance of the resolution of the In

ternational Socialist Congress in Stuttgart on the question of militarism

The army of the proletariat is growing in all countries Its class consciousness, unity and determination are growing by leaps and bounds And capitalism is successfully providing for a greater frequency of crises, which this army will utilise in order to destroy capitalism

End of 1907

## MILITANT MILITARISM AND THE ANTI MILITARIST TACTICS OF SOCIAL DEMOCRACY\*

### I

THE diplomatists are in a state of agitation "Notes," "dispatches," "declarations" are coming down like hail, the Ministers are whispering behind the backs of the crowned dummies who are "consolidating peace" with glasses of champagne. But the "subjects" know full well that when ravens flock together there is a corpse about. And the Conservative Lord Cromer declared in the British Parliament that "we are living in a time when national" (?) "interests are at stake, when passions are inflamed and there is the danger and possibility of a conflict, however peaceful" (1) "the intentions of the rulers may be."

Sufficient inflammable material has been accumulating of late and it is still mounting up. The revolution in Persia threatens to break down all the partitions, the "spheres of influence" set up there by the European Powers. The constitutional movement in Turkey threatens to wrest this appanage from the clutches of the European capitalist robbers, furthermore, the ancient "questions"—the Macedonian, the Central Asiatic, the Far Eastern\*\* etc., etc.—have now been raised in an acute and threatening manner.

Meanwhile, with the network of existing open and secret treaties, agreements, etc., the slightest fillip by any "Power" will be sufficient to "fan the spark into a flame."

And the more formidably the governments brandish their weapons at each other, the more ruthlessly do they suppress the anti militarist movement in their respective countries. The persecution of anti militarists is growing in extent and in intensity. The "Radical Socialist" Cabinet of Clemenceau Briand \*\*\* does not lag behind the Junker Conservative Cabinet of Bülow \*\*\*\* in the matter of oppression. The dissolution of the "youth organisa-



tions" throughout Germany, which followed the introduction of the new law on unions and meetings prohibiting the attendance of persons under twenty years of age at political meetings, has extremely hampered anti militarist agitation in Germany

As a consequence, the controversy over the anti militarist tactics of the Socialists, which subsided after the Stuttgart Congress, is now being revived in the Party press

What at first sight seems a strange phenomenon presents itself in spite of the obvious importance of this question, in spite of the clear, strikingly manifest harmfulness of militarism, it is difficult for the proletariat to find another question on which there is so much vacillation, so much discord among the Western Socialists as in the controversy over anti militarist tactics

The principles of the premises for the correct solution of this problem were laid down quite firmly long ago, and they do not give rise to any differences of opinion Contemporary militarism is the result of capitalism, it is the "living manifestation" of capitalism in both its forms as a military force used by the capitalist states in their external conflicts (*Militarismus nach aussen*<sup>1</sup> as the Germans put it) and as a weapon in the hands of the ruling classes for the suppression of all movements (economic and political) of the proletariat (*Militarismus nach innen*<sup>2</sup>) A number of International congresses (the Paris Congress in 1889, the Brussels Congress in 1891, the Zürich Congress in 1893 and finally the Stuttgart Congress in 1907) in their resolutions gave a fully formulated expression of this view \* The connection between militarism and capitalism was most fully explained in the Stuttgart resolution, although in accordance with the agenda ("On International Conflicts") the Stuttgart Congress was more concerned with that aspect of militarism which the Germans call "*Militarismus nach aussen*." The following is the passage of that resolution bearing on it:

"Wars between capitalist states are as a rule, the result of their competition on the world market because every state strives not only to safeguard its old markets, but to win new markets, and in this connection

<sup>1</sup> External militarism—Ed

<sup>2</sup> Internal militarism—Ed

the subjugation of foreign nations and countries plays the principal part. These wars are also caused by continuous rivalry in armaments, called forth by militarism, which is the principal weapon of the class rule of the bourgeoisie and of the economic and political subjugation of the working class.

"Wars are facilitated by nationalist prejudices, which are systematically fostered in the civilised countries in the interests of the ruling classes for the purpose of diverting the proletarian masses from their own class tasks and forcing them to forget their duty of international class solidarity."

"Thus wars are rooted in the very nature of capitalism, they will cease only when the capitalist system is abolished, or when the enormity of human and monetary sacrifices, caused by the development of military technique and the outburst of popular indignation called forth by armaments bring about the abolition of that system. The working class, from which the soldiers are mainly drawn and by whom the material sacrifices are mainly borne, is particularly a natural enemy of war, since wars conflict with the aim it pursues, namely, the creation of an economic system based on the principles of socialism, a system that will really bring about the solidarity of nations."

## II

Thus, the connection between the principles of militarism and of capitalism has been firmly established among Socialists, and there are no differences of opinion on that point. However, the recognition of this connection does not concretely define the anti-militarist *tactics* of the Socialists and does not solve the practical problem of how the struggle against the burden of militarism is to be carried on and how wars are to be prevented. And it is precisely in the answers to this question that one notes considerable divergence in the views of the Socialists. At the Stuttgart Congress these differences could be observed in a particularly palpable manner.

At one extreme we find German Social Democrats of the Vollmar type. They argue that since militarism is the child of capitalism, since wars are a necessary concomitant of capitalist development, there is no need for any special anti-militarist activity. That is exactly what Vollmar declared at the Essen *Partei-tag* \*. On the question of what the Social Democrats are to do in the event of a declaration of war, the majority of the German Social Democrats—with Bebel and Vollmar at their head—persistently maintain that Social Democrats must defend their fatherland from attacks, that they are in duty bound to take part in a "defensive" war. This postulate led Vollmar to declare in Stuttgart that "all our love for

humanity cannot prevent us from being good Germans," and led the Social Democratic deputy, Noske, to proclaim in the Reichstag that in the event of a war against Germany "the Social Democrats will not lag behind the bourgeois parties and will shoulder the rifle" From this position Noske had to take only one step more to declare "We want Germany to be as well armed as possible"

The other extreme is represented by the small group of followers of Hervé The Hervéists argue that the proletariat has no fatherland Hence, all wars are waged in the interests of the capitalists, hence, the proletariat must fight against every kind of war The proletariat must reply to every declaration of war by declaring a military strike and insurrection This is what the anti militarist propaganda must amount to in the main Hence, in Stuttgart, Hervé proposed the following draft resolution

The congress demands that *every declaration of war from whatever quarter it may emanate be answered by a military strike and insurrection*

Such are the two "extreme" positions on this question held among the Western Socialists The two diseases, which still cripple the activity of the socialist proletariat in the West, are reflected in them "like the sun in a drop of water" opportunist tendencies on one side, anarchist phrasemongering on the other

First of all, a few remarks about patriotism That the "proletarians have no fatherland" is actually stated in *The Communist Manifesto*, that the position of Vollmar, Noske and Co is a "flagrant violation" of this fundamental proposition of *international socialism* is equally true But it does not follow from this that Hervé and the Hervéists are right when they assert that it is immaterial to the proletariat in which fatherland it lives whether it lives in monarchist Germany, republican France or despotic Turkey The fatherland, *i e*, the given political, cultural and social environment, is the most powerful factor in the class struggle of the proletariat, and if Vollmar is wrong in establishing a kind of "truly German" attitude of the proletariat towards the "fatherland," Hervé is not less wrong in treating such an important factor of the proletarian struggle for emancipation in an unpardonably uncritical fashion The proletariat cannot treat the political, social and cultural conditions of its struggle with indifference or equa

nimity, consequently, it cannot remain indifferent to the destiny of its country. But it is interested in the destiny of its country only in so far as it affects its class struggle, and not by virtue of some bourgeois "patriotism," which sounds altogether indecent on the lips of a Social Democrat.

The other question is more complicated—the attitude towards militarism and war. It is obvious at the very first glance that Hervé confuses these two questions unpardonably and forgets the cause and effect as between capitalism and war, if the proletariat had adopted Hervé's tactics it would have condemned itself to futile work: it would have used all its fighting preparedness (he talks of insurrection, does he not?) to fight the consequences (war), while allowing the cause (capitalism) to continue.

The anarchist method of reasoning is revealed here in full measure. The blind faith in the miraculous power of every "*action directe*," the abstraction of this "direct action" from the general social and political situation without analysing it in the least—in a word, "the arbitrary mechanical conception of social phenomena" (according to K. Liebknecht's expression) is obvious.

Hervé's plan is "very simple": on the day of the declaration of war the Socialist soldiers desert, and the reservists declare a strike and stay at home.

But "a reservists' strike is not passive resistance: the working class would soon pass on to open resistance to insurrection and this latter would have more chances of success, because the active army would be on the frontier of the country" (G. Hervé, *Leur Patrie*).

Such is this "effective, direct and practical plan," and, certain of its success, Hervé proposes to reply to every declaration of war by a military strike and insurrection.

As is clearly seen from the above, the question here is not whether the proletariat should, when it deems it expedient, reply to a declaration of war by a strike and insurrection. The controversy centres round the question as to whether the proletariat should be bound by an obligation to reply to every war by insurrection. To adopt the latter policy means depriving the proletariat of the choice of the moment for the decisive battle and leaving that choice to its enemies. It is not the proletariat that

is to choose the moment of struggle in accordance with its own interests, when its general socialist class consciousness is at its height, when it is well organised, when the ground is favourable, etc., etc., no, the bourgeois governments could provoke it to an uprising even when the conditions were unfavourable for it, *e.g.*, by a declaration of such a war as is specially capable of calling forth patriotic and chauvinist sentiments among broad strata of the population, a war that would isolate the rebellious proletariat. Moreover, one must not forget that the bourgeoisie—which in every country, from monarchist Germany down to republican France and democratic Switzerland, fiercely persecutes anti militarist activities in peace time—would come down ruthlessly on any attempt at a military strike in the event of war, at a time when a state of war, martial law, courts martial, etc., are in force.

Kautsky is right when he says of Hervé's idea "The idea of a strike against war was prompted by 'good' motives, it is noble and heroic, but it is heroic folly."

The proletariat may reply to the declaration of war by a military strike if it finds it expedient and appropriate, it may, among other methods of achieving the social revolution, resort also to a military strike, but it is not in the interests of the proletariat to bind itself down to this "tactical recipe."

That is precisely the way the Stuttgart International Congress answered this controversial question.

### III

But while the views of the Hervéists are "heroic folly," the position of Vollmar, Noske and their adherents of the "Right wing" is, on the other hand, opportunist cowardice. Since militarism is the offspring of capital and will fall with it—they argued in Stuttgart, and especially in Essen—there is no need for special anti militarist agitation: no such agitation should be carried on. But—was the rejoinder made to them in Stuttgart—the radical solution of the labour and woman's problems, for instance, is also impossible so long as the capitalist system prevails, nevertheless, we are fighting for labour legislation, for the extension of civil rights to women, etc. Special anti militarist propaganda must be

conducted all the more energetically because cases of the intervention of military forces in the struggle between labour and capital become increasingly frequent, and the importance of militarism not only during the present struggle of the proletariat, but also in the future, at the moment of the social revolution, becomes increasingly obvious

The need for special anti-militarist propaganda is supported not only by proof based on principles but also by important historical experience. Belgium in this respect is in advance of all the other countries. The Belgian Labour Party,\* apart from the general propaganda of the ideas of anti-militarism, has organised groups of socialist youth, the "Young Guard"\*\*\* ("*Jeunes Gardes*") The groups of the same district form the District Federation, all the district federations, in their turn, are united in a National Federation with the "General Council" at their head. The organs of the "Young Guard" (*La Jeunesse—c'est l'avenir, De Caserne, De Loterie*, and others) have a circulation of tens of thousands! The Walloon Federation, consisting of 62 local groups with 10,000 members, is the strongest of all the federations, in all the "Young Guard" now consists of 121 local groups

Simultaneously with agitation in the press, intense oral agitation is carried on in January and September (the months when recruits are called up) popular meetings and processions are organised in the principal cities of Belgium, at open air meetings outside the premises of the *mairies*,<sup>1</sup> Socialist speakers explain the meaning of militarism to the young recruits. The "General Council" of the "Young Guard" has set up a "Grievances Committee" the function of which is to collect information concerning all cases of injustice in the barracks. This information is published daily in the central organ of the Party, *Le Peuple*, under the heading "From the Army." Anti-militarist propaganda does not stop at the doorstep of the barracks, the Socialist soldiers form groups for the purpose of carrying on propaganda in the army. At the present time there are about fifteen such groups ("Soldiers' Unions")

Following the Belgian model, anti-militarist propaganda is

<sup>1</sup> *Mairie*—town hall—*Ed. Eng. ed.*

being carried on in France,<sup>1</sup> Switzerland, Austria and other countries, such propaganda varying in intensity and in form of organisation

Thus, special anti-militarist activity is not only particularly necessary, but practically expedient and useful. Therefore, inasmuch as Vollmar opposed it, pointing to the impossible police conditions in Germany and to the danger of the Party organisations being smashed on this account, the question was reduced to a concrete analysis of the conditions in the given country, to a question of fact and not to a question of principle. Although, in this connection, too, Jaurès was quite justified in saying that as German Social Democracy, in its youth, had survived the hard times of the Anti-Socialist Law and the iron hand of Prince Bismarck and has now become incomparably bigger and stronger, it need no longer fear persecution by the present rulers. But Vollmar is doubly wrong when he tries to argue that special anti-militarist propaganda is inexpedient in principle.

Not less opportunistic is the conviction of Vollmar and his followers that it is the duty of Social Democrats to take part in a defensive war. Kautsky's brilliant criticism completely demolished these views. Kautsky pointed out that sometimes, especially in a moment of patriotic intoxication, it is utterly impossible to be clear as to whether the given war was called forth by defensive or offensive aims (the example quoted by Kautsky: did Japan attack or defend herself at the beginning of the Russo-Japanese war?) Social Democrats would be entangled in the meshes of diplomatic negotiations if they took it into their heads to determine their attitude towards war on the basis of such a criterion. Social Democrats may even find themselves in the position of having to demand aggressive wars. In 1848 (the Hervéists, too, would do well to remember this) Marx and Engels considered a war on the part of Germany against Russia to be necessary.\* Later on

<sup>1</sup> An interesting feature of the work carried on by the French is the organisation of the so-called "soldier's sou", every week a worker pays one sou to the secretary of his union, the sums gathered in this way are sent to the soldiers "as a reminder of the fact that even while in soldier's uniform they belong to the exploited class and that they must not forget this under any circumstances."

they attempted to influence public opinion in England in order to induce England to go to war against Russia \* Incidentally, Kautsky constructs the following hypothetical instance

"Let us assume," he says, "that the revolutionary movement gains a victory in Russia and that under the influence of this victory power passes into the hands of the proletariat in France, on the other hand let us assume that a coalition of European monarchs is formed against the new Russia Will international Social Democracy protest if the French Republic then comes to the assistance of Russia?" (K Kautsky *Our Views on Patriotism and War*)

Obviously, in this question (as also in views on "patriotism") it is not the offensive or defensive character of the war, but the interests of the class struggle of the proletariat, or rather, the interests of the international movement of the proletariat that represent the only possible point of view from which the question of the attitude of Social Democracy towards a given phenomenon in international relations can be considered and solved

To what lengths opportunism is capable of going in these questions too is shown by the recent utterance of Jaurès In expressing his views on the international situation in an obscure German liberal bourgeois newspaper, he defends the alliance of France and England with Russia against the accusation of anti pacific intentions and considers this alliance to be a "guarantee of peace", he welcomes the fact that "we have now lived to see an alliance of England and Russia, two ancient enemies" \*\*

In her "Open Letter" in the latest issue of *Die Neue Zeit*, Rosa Luxemburg gives an excellent appraisal of this view and a sharp retort to Jaurès

First of all R. Luxemburg states that to talk of an alliance between "Russia" and "England" means "talking in the language of bourgeois politicians," for the interests of the capitalist states and the interests of the proletariat in foreign politics are diametrically opposed to each other, and it is impossible to speak of harmony of interests in the domain of foreign relations If militarism is the offspring of capitalism, then wars, too, cannot be eliminated by the intrigues of rulers and diplomats, and the task of the Socialists is not to create illusions on this score, but, on the contrary, always to expose the hypocrisy and the impotence of diplomatic "peace measures"



The main point of the "Letter," however, is the appraisal of the alliance of England and France with Russia, which Jaures praises so much. The European bourgeois enabled tsarism to repel the revolutionary onslaught.

"In trying now to transform the temporary victory over the revolution into a final victory absolutism is resorting above all to the tried method of all tottering despotic governments—to successes in foreign politics"

All the alliances of Russia at the present time mean

"the Holy Alliance of the bourgeoisie of Western Europe with Russian counter-revolution, with the stranglers and executioners of Russian and Polish fighters for freedom, they mean the strengthening of the bloodiest reaction, not only in Russia but also in international relations. That is why the most elementary task of the Socialists and proletarians of all countries is to oppose the alliance with counter-revolutionary Russia with all their might

"How is one to explain," asks R. Luxemburg, addressing herself to Jaurès, "the fact that you who once delivered brilliant speeches in the French Chamber opposing the Russian loan,\* you who but a few weeks ago published in your newspaper *l'Humanité* an ardent appeal to public opinion against the bloody work of the courts martial in Russian Poland,\*\* will strive 'in a most energetic fashion' to make the government of the bloody executioners of the Russian revolution and of the Persian uprising an influential factor in European politics, to make the Russian gallows the pillars of international peace? How is it possible to reconcile your peaceful plans based on the Franco-Russian and Anglo-Russian alliances with the protest recently made by the French Socialist parliamentary fraction and by the Administrative Committee of the National Council of the Socialist Party against Faillères\*\*\* visit to Russia with the protest which fervently defends the interests of the Russian revolution and bears your own signature? If the President of the French Republic wanted to refer to your ideas about the international situation, he would declare in reply to your protest whoever approves of the aim must approve of the means, whoever regards the alliance with tsarist Russia as a guarantee of international peace must accept everything that strengthens that alliance and fosters friendship

'What would you have said if Socialists and revolutionaries had been found in Germany, in Russia and in England who 'in the interests of peace' had recommended an alliance with the government of the restoration or the government of Cavagnac, or the government of Thiers and Jules Favre,\*\*\*\* and had lent such an alliance their moral authority?' " 1

This letter speaks for itself, and the Russian Social Democrats can only congratulate Comrade R. Luxemburg on this protest of hers and on the defence of the Russian revolution before the international proletariat

August [July] 1908

## WHAT SHOULD NOT BE IMITATED IN THE GERMAN LABOUR MOVEMENT\*

K LEGIEN, one of the most prominent and responsible representatives of the German trade unions, recently published an account of his visit to America in the form of a rather bulky book entitled *The Labour Movement in America*.

As one of the most prominent representatives not only of the German but also of the international trade union movement, K Legien made this visit appear to have special, so to say, state importance. For years he conducted negotiations about this visit with the Socialist Party of America and with the "American Federation of Labour,"\*\* the federation of trade unions led by the famous (or rather infamous) Gompers. When it was learned that Karl Liebknecht was going to America, Legien did not want to go at the same time because he

" wanted to avoid the simultaneous appearance in the United States of two public speakers whose views on Party tactics and on the importance and value of the separate branches of the labour movement did not entirely coincide "

K Legien collected a very large amount of material on the trade union movement in America, but he has been quite unable to utilise it in his book, which is mainly filled with rubbish in the shape of fragmentary accounts of his journey, mere feuilletons in content and worse than feuilletons in style. Even the rules of the trade unions in America, in which Legien took special interest, have not been studied, not worked up, but merely translated, without system and incompletely.

One episode in Legien's tour is exceedingly instructive and reveals very clearly *two tendencies* in the world labour movement, especially in the German labour movement.

Legien visited the United States chamber of deputies, called "Congress." The democratic regime of the republic made a favour

able impression on the man who was brought up in palace ridden Prussia, and he notes with a pleasure which is quite understandable that the state in America supplies every Congressman not only with a special room furnished according to the last word in comfort, but also with a paid secretary to do a great deal of his work. The simplicity and lack of constraint in the bearing of the Congressmen and of the Speaker differed sharply from what Legien had seen in other European parliaments, especially in Germany. In Europe a Social Democrat could not even dream of addressing a speech of greeting to a bourgeois parliament at its official session! But in America this was very simple and the title of Social Democrat did not frighten anyone except *that very Social Democrat!*

It was here that the American bourgeois fashion of "killing" unstable Socialists "with kindness," as well as the German opportunist fashion of renouncing socialism to please the "kind" and fable and democratic bourgeoisie, was revealed.

Legien's speech of greeting was translated into English (democracy was not a bit frightened by hearing an "alien" language in its parliament), over 200 Congressmen, each in turn, shook hands with Legien as the "guest" of the republic. The Speaker of Congress thanked him particularly.

"The form and content of my speech of greeting," writes Legien, "were favourably commented upon in the Socialist press both of the United States and of Germany. Some German editors, however, could not refrain from mentioning that my speech proved once again that it is impossible for a Social Democrat to deliver a Social Democratic speech before a bourgeois audience. Well if they these editors, were in my place they would no doubt have delivered a speech against capitalism and in favour of a mass strike, whereas I thought it important to emphasise before that parliament that the Social Democratic and the trade union workers of Germany want peace among nations and desire through peace the further development of culture to the highest possible level."

Poor "editors"—Legien has annihilated them with his "statesman" like speech. In the German labour movement the opportunism of the leaders of the trade union movement in general, and of Legien especially and in particular, has long been a matter of common knowledge, and many class conscious workers appraise them correctly. But in our country, in Russia, where there is too

much talk about the "model" of *European socialism*, and where in this connection it is precisely the worst, the most objectionable features of the "model" that are selected, it will not be amiss to dwell at greater length on Legien's speech

The leader of the army of two million German trade unionists, *i.e.*, the Social Democratic trade unions, a member of the Social Democratic fraction in the German Reichstag, delivers a purely liberal bourgeois speech before the supreme assembly of the representatives of capitalist America. Naturally, not a single liberal, not even an Octobrist, would have refused to endorse the words about "peace" and "culture"

And when the Socialists in Germany remarked that this was not a Social Democratic speech, our "leader" of the wage slaves of capital poured lofty scorn on the Socialists. What are "editors" compared with a "practical politician" and the collector of work-ers' pennies? Our philistine Narcissus has the same contempt for editors as a police pompadour in a certain country has for the "third element"

They, "these editors," to be sure, would have delivered a speech "against capitalism"

Just think what this quasi-Socialist is mocking at: he is mocking at the idea of a Socialist taking it into his head that he must talk *against* capitalism. Such an idea is utterly foreign to the "statesmen" of German opportunism; they talk in a way that *will not offend* "capitalism." And while disgracing themselves by this flunkeyish renunciation of socialism, they glory in their shame.

Legien does not belong to the man in the street category. He is the representative of an army, or to be more exact, of the officers' corps of the trade union army. His speech is not an accident or a slip of the tongue, nor is it a solitary escapade or a mistake committed by a provincial German "office clerk" overawed by the kindness of the American capitalists who betray no trace of police arrogance. If it were *only* this, it would not be worth while dwelling on Legien's speech.

But obviously this is not the case.

At the International Congress in Stuttgart, half the German delegation turned out to be precisely this sort of miserable social

ists, and they voted for the ultra opportunist resolution on the colonial question<sup>1</sup>

If you take the German magazine, the *Socialist* (??) *Monthly*<sup>2</sup> you will always find in it articles by public men like Legien, thoroughly opportunist articles which have *nothing* in common with socialism and which touch on *all* the most important questions of the labour movement

And although the "official" explanation of the "official" German Party is that "no one reads" the *Socialist Monthly*, that it has no influence, etc., this is *untrue*. The Stuttgart "case" proved that it is untrue. The most prominent and responsible public men, parliamentarians, leaders of trade unions, who contribute to the *Socialist Monthly*, are constantly and undeviatingly spreading their viewpoint among the masses

"The official optimism" of the German Party was long ago recorded in its own camp by those whom Legien called "these editors," a nickname at once contemptuous (from the standpoint of a bourgeois) and honourable (from the standpoint of a Socialist). And the more often liberals and liquidators in Russia (Trotsky, of course, included) attempt to *transplant* this pleasant characteristic to *our soil*, the more resolutely must we combat it.

German Social Democracy has very great merits. It has a theory, strictly worked out owing to the fight waged by Marx against all the Hochbergs, Dührings and Co.,<sup>3</sup> a theory which our Narodniki are vainly trying to evade, or revise, in an opportunist fashion. It has a mass organisation, newspapers, trade unions, political unions—that same mass organisation which is becoming so clearly crystallised in our country in the form of the victory which the Marxists *Pravda*ists<sup>4</sup> are gaining everywhere—in the Duma elections and in the field of the daily press, in the elections to the insurance council and in the trade unions. The efforts of our liquidators, whom the workers have "removed from their posts," to evade this question of mass organisation in Russia as

<sup>1</sup> See article "The International Socialist Congress in Stuttgart" in this volume and notes to pages 314\* and 316\*—Ed Eng ed

<sup>2</sup> *Sozialistische Monatshefte*—Ed Eng ed

<sup>3</sup> I.e. the Bolsheviks.—Ed

adapted to Russian conditions are as futile as the vain efforts of the Narodniki, and signify a similar intellectual *split off* from the labour movement

But the merits of German Social Democracy are merits not because of disgraceful speeches such as those delivered by Legien and of the "speeches" (in the press) of the contributors of the *Socialist Monthly*, but in spite of them. We must not gloss over or confuse by "official optimistic" phrases the undoubted *disease* of the German Party which is manifesting itself in phenomena of this kind, we must expose it before the Russian workers, so that we may learn, by the experience of an older movement, what should not be imitated.

April 1914

## EXPLANATORY NOTES





## EXPLANATORY NOTES

PAGE 8 \* The article 'On to the High Road,' published in *Sotsial Demokrat*, the central organ of the Party, No 2 of February 10, 1909 was written by Lenin immediately after the All Russian Conference of the RSDLP which was held in Paris in January 1909 (December 1908, old style, hence known as the December Conference) This conference played a very important part in the life of the Party for it was there that the Party formulated its views on the political situation that existed after the victory of the counter revolution, on the policy of the government and of the ruling classes (and parties), on the immediate tasks of Party work, and in particular, on the Duma work of the Party The conference consisted of six Bolsheviks, two of whom were otzovists, i.e. those who demanded that the Social Democratic deputies in the Duma be recalled (see note to p 17\*), four Mensheviks, three Bundists and five representatives of Polish Social Democracy Thanks to the support they received from the Polish comrades the Bolsheviks had a majority on all the important questions that were discussed, and in the main the resolutions adopted by the conference were those proposed by the Bolsheviks

In this article Lenin explains these resolutions The main resolution of the conference, viz, "On the Present Situation and the Tasks of the Party," was drafted by Lenin (see draft, pp 13 16) and was adopted by the conference with only slight amendment The main thesis of this resolution is that the autocracy, which had defeated the Revolution of 1905-07, "is developing and becoming transformed into a bourgeois monarchy" and that it is taking new steps in this transformation, but that it is doing this in such a way that "the power and incomes of the feudal landlords might be preserved" Lenin attached decisive importance to this appraisal of the class character of the autocracy after the revolution as a means of defining the tasks of the proletarian party for the whole period of 1908-14 He was of the opinion that to refuse to accept this appraisal was tantamount to slipping either into Menshevik liquidationism or into the otzovist position Hence, in his struggle on these two fronts in the period of the reaction, Lenin constantly proceeded from this evaluation of the character of the autocracy and attacked the evaluation given by the Menshevik liquidators and the otzovists The reader will see this from a perusal of the articles that follow the present one viz "The Social Structure of State Power, etc" and "Notes of a Publicist, I The 'Platform' of the Adherents and Defenders of Otzovism" By comparing these articles with the article "On

to the High Road" and the "Draft Resolution on the Present Situation and the Tasks of the Party" the reader will see how the difference in the evaluation of the class character of the autocracy led to the difference in the political lines pursued by the Bolsheviks, the Menshevik liquidators and the otzovists, respectively. By adopting the Leninist evaluation of the autocracy and all the political conclusions that followed from it, the conference struck a similar blow at otzovism and liquidationism in the resolutions that it adopted on the Social Democratic Duma fraction and on the organisational question, with which as well as with the resolution "On the Present Situation, etc," Lenin deals in his article "On to the High Road"

The struggle "on two fronts" which Lenin and the Bolsheviks waged at the December Conference of 1908, and afterwards, must be regarded as one of the stages of that constant struggle 'against the enemies in the labour movement' in the course of which, as Lenin says, "Bolshevism grew, became strong and hardened"—a struggle against the petty bourgeois opportunism of the Right and also against the petty bourgeois revolutionariness of the "Left" Menshevik liquidationism and its struggle against an illegal revolutionary party of the proletariat and for a legal "workers" party of liberal reforms was nothing more nor less than the direct continuation and development, in the new conditions of the period of reaction and of the new revival, of the opportunist line pursued by Menshevism in the Revolution of 1905-07. In the period of 1905-07 the general political line of Menshevism was the line of cooperation with the liberal bourgeoisie and of the subordination of the revolutionary labour movement to the latter. As pursued by the liquidators, this line assumed the character of subordinating the revolutionary labour movement to the interests of the bargain which the liberal bourgeoisie had already made with tsarism and of the pettifogging, liberal reformist patching up of the regime which had established itself after the defeat of the Revolution of 1905-07. Otzovism, in its turn, was nothing more nor less than the revolutionariness of the "frenzied petty bourgeois" who is incapable of understanding the changes that have taken place in the relation of class forces and in the conditions of their struggle, and is incapable of changing tactics accordingly. This petty bourgeois revolutionariness, which substitutes sonorous revolutionary phrases for an estimation of the conditions of the struggle, was primarily characteristic of otzovism. The defeat of the Revolution of 1905-07, the new steps taken by the autocracy in the direction of a bourgeois monarchy, the shifting of classes in the country, which found expression in the bargain, the alliance, the compromise entered into between the landlord autocracy and the bourgeoisie, including the liberal bourgeoisie, made it necessary for the defeated revolutionary army to retreat. The Bolsheviks carried out this retreat in such a manner as to preserve and prepare for the possibility of another revolutionary offensive. The Mensheviks, on the other hand, retreated into the marsh of liberal reformism. The otzovists did not make

such a retreat, nor did they make a Bolshevik retreat. Failing to understand either the changed conditions of the struggle or the significance of these changes denying the necessity for a retreat in order to prepare for another revolutionary offensive, and repudiating the necessity of utilising the legal institutions and organisations for this purpose they too like the Mensheviks, hindered the preparations for the new offensive they too were liquidators but liquidators from the Left," liquidators turned inside out' This "Left" otzovist danger had to be combated, all the more so since it existed in the Bolsheviks' own ranks, and only by smashing it could the Bolsheviks entirely free their hands to fight against the danger from the Right, against Menshevik liquidationism. Lenin expressed the extreme importance of the struggle waged against otzovism in the period of reaction in the following words written in his pamphlet '*Left Wing*' Communism, an Infantile Disorder

"Of all the defeated opposition and revolutionary parties the Bolsheviks effected the most orderly retreat with the least loss to their army with the nucleus of their party best preserved, with the fewest splits (in the sense of deep, irremediable splits), with the least demoralisation, and in the best condition to renew work on the broadest scale and in the most correct and energetic manner. The Bolsheviks achieved this only because they ruthlessly exposed and expelled the revolutionary phrasemongers, who refused to understand that it was necessary to retreat, that it was necessary to know how to retreat that it was absolutely necessary for them to learn how to work legally in the most reactionary parliaments, in the most reactionary trade unions, co-operative societies, social insurance and similar organisations."

PAGE 5 \* Lenin here refers to an amendment moved at the conference by the Mensheviks. In the passage of the resolution which says that the feudal autocracy was taking another step towards being transformed into a bourgeois monarchy they moved that the word "plutocratic" be substituted for the word "bourgeois". Plutocracy means government by the rich, but it does not indicate what kind of rich, the landlords or the capitalist bourgeoisie. Of course the conference rejected this amendment, as the autocracy had long been a plutocratic one i.e. the autocracy of the rich, and there was, therefore, no need for it to take the path of becoming one. It was also necessary to give a clear and distinct class characterisation of the autocracy in the given historical period and not to blur it by the vague term "plutocratic".

PAGE 8 \* In 1878, Bismarck, then Chancellor of Germany, secured the passage in the Reichstag of the Anti-Socialist Law by which the activities of the German Social Democratic Party were declared illegal. This law remained in operation until 1890. During the operation of this law the Social Democratic Party, which went underground, strove to combine

legal with illegal Party work In Switzerland the Party published a newspaper, *Sozialdemokrat* which was smuggled into Germany For the purpose of smuggling the newspaper and other illegal literature into Germany, the Party set up a special secret organisation which came to be known as the "Red Post." The Party regularly convened its congresses abroad and convened illegal conferences of the various districts of the Party in Germany itself At the same time, the Party exerted every effort to retain and reinforce the strongholds for legal Party work Such strongholds were the Reichstag—from the floor of which the members of the Social Democratic Party exposed the government and pointed out the path of struggle for the masses of the workers—the various educational sports and other working class societies—in which the members of the Party carried on socialist propaganda, the trade unions—in which the Party was able legally to train the masses for the struggle against the bourgeoisie, etc This combination of legal and illegal work enabled the Party to strengthen its influence among the masses in spite of government persecution and finally enabled it to compel the government to repeal the Anti Socialist Law

PAGE 13 \* Lenin explains why the policy of the tsarist autocracy after the Revolution of 1905-07 could be described as a "bourgeois Bonapartist" policy, *i.e.*, a policy that was akin to that of the monarchy of Napoleon Bonaparte, after the Great French Revolution of 1789-93, and of Napoleon III, after the Revolution of 1849 in France, in his article entitled "An Appreciation of the Present Situation" (*Collected Works*, Vol XII) This article was written after the December Conference of the Party of 1908 for the precise purpose of explaining this "Draft Resolution on the Present Situation and the Tasks of the Party" Neither of the Napoleonic monarchies had the old feudal landlord class to support them and were compelled to pursue a *bourgeois* policy, *i.e.*, to become bourgeois monarchies The old semi-feudal landlord prop of the tsarist autocracy was also shaken The autocracy remained a landlord autocracy (that is what distinguished it from the two Napoleonic monarchies), but it too was compelled to pursue a bourgeois policy and to rely on the bourgeoisie in order to save itself and its masters, the landlords Both the Napoleonic monarchies tried to rely on the peasantry and each in its own way "flirted" with the rural districts. The tsarist autocracy also sought support in the rural districts and "flirted" with the upper stratum of the rural population, *i.e.*, the kulaks. It too, in its own landlord way, pursued a bourgeois rural policy, destroyed the village commune by means of its new, Stolypin legislation and widened and strengthened the kulak strata of the rural population. (See articles "The Agrarian Question and the Present State of Russia" and "The Question of the [General] Agrarian Policy of the Present Government," in this volume) Lenin described this policy in the rural districts as agrarian "Bonapartism" In the article entitled "An Appreciation of the Present Situation," mentioned above, Lenin wrote, "... The agrarian Bonapartism,

of Stolypin—who on this point is quite deliberately and very firmly supported by the Black Hundred landlords and the Octobrist bourgeoisie—could not have been born let alone endured for two years, had not the village commune itself in Russia developed capitalistically, had not elements arisen in the village communes with whom the autocracy was able to begin to flirt and to whom it was able to say 'Enrich yourselves! Plunder the village commune, but support me!' Thus after the Revolution of 1905-07, the tsarist autocracy utilised the Bonapartist agrarian policy for the purpose of strengthening the rule of the landlords by turning to its own ends one of the results of the influence of capitalist development in the rural districts of Russia, *viz* the class differentiation of the rural population and the rise of the bourgeois kulak class in the rural districts

PAGE 14 \* The peasant deputies in the Third Duma—"who had even been sifted through a number of police sieves"—non party and partly *Rights*—introduced a Bill in the Third Duma known as the "Bill of the 42," which provided for the compulsory alienation of the land and for the establishment of local land departments to be elected by the whole of the population "And the very fact" says Lenin, "that in a Black Hundred Duma that was elected on the basis of an electoral law deliberately fabricated in the interests of the landlords by order of the united nobility, under the rule of the most desperate reaction and raging White terror—that in such a Duma forty two peasants should sign such a Bill is better proof than any number of arguments of the revolutionary temper of the peasant masses in contemporary Russia" (Article entitled "The Agrarian Debate in the Third Duma," *Collected Works*, Vol XII)

PAGE 15 \* This refers to the Persian Revolution of 1906, the Turkish Revolution of 1908 and the revival of the national liberation movement in India and China (See also notes to pages 297, \*\* 298, \* 299, \* 300, \* 305 \* and 312 \*)

PAGE 15 \*\* This refers to the curtailment of the slogans a democratic republic, an eight hour day and the confiscation of all landlord estates. It was around these three main slogans that the agitational work of the Bolsheviks was centred. The Menshevik liquidators, betraying the revolution, substituted purely reformist slogans for these revolutionary slogans. For the slogan of a republic and the abolition of the tsarist monarchy they substituted the demand for freedom of coalition, free speech, etc., without the overthrow of tsarism, that is to say, they adopted the liberal point of view. For details concerning the curtailment of the revolutionary slogans, see the article entitled "Controversial Questions" in this volume

PAGE 16 \* The resolution on the economic policy of the working class, adopted by the London Congress of the Second International (1896), stated

that while setting itself the main task of winning political power and fighting for the socialist reorganisation of society, the proletariat must at the same time, before the conquest of political power, fight for the improvement of its conditions by legislation for an eight hour day, for labour protection laws, freedom of coalition and freedom of assembly. Simultaneously with the political organisation of the working class the congress emphasised the extreme need for industrial organisations, the duty of which was to train their members to become convinced socialists. The congress pointed to the strike and boycott as necessary means by which the industrial movement could achieve its aim.

The Stuttgart Congress of the Second International (1907), in its resolution on the relations between the political parties and the trade union organisations, stated that in order to achieve the complete emancipation of the proletariat, both the economic and the political struggle of the working class were necessary. "In this manner" the congress declared, "the Party and the trade unions fulfil equally valuable revolutionary tasks in the proletarian struggle for emancipation. In their activities the parties and the trade unions are morally bound to assist each other. The trade unions will be able to fulfil their duties in the proletarian struggle for emancipation only when they base their activities on socialist premises."

PAGE 17 \* At a meeting of the Bolshevik faction held at the time of the London Congress of the RSDLP in 1907, it was resolved that the leading organ of the Bolshevik trend should be the Bolshevik centre, which was to consist of the Bolshevik members and candidates of the Central Committee of the Party and of the editorial board of the Bolshevik newspaper *Proletary*. A meeting of this Bolshevik centre was held June 21-30 [8 17], 1909, at which the representatives of a number of big Party organisations (St. Petersburg, Moscow, the Urals), the representatives of the Bolshevik section of the Social Democratic fraction in the Duma and a number of other comrades were present. This conference, known as the Conference of the Enlarged Editorial Board of *Proletary*, played a very important role in the struggle for Lenin's line of the Party in the epoch of reaction. Of the resolutions adopted by this conference, which were edited and partly written by Lenin, two are given here. The first, as can be seen from its title, is directed against otzovism and ultimatism.

Already at the December Conference of the Party of 1908, the Party, on the proposal of Lenin, emphasised the importance of utilising the tribune of the Duma for revolutionary Social Democratic propaganda and agitation, and by that pointed to the very serious political mistake committed by the otzovists and the ultimatumists who demanded that the Bolsheviks leave the Duma. At the conference, the otzovists did not persist in their error and even voted for Lenin's resolution, "On the Present Situation and the Tasks of the Party," notwithstanding the fact that the amendments they had moved to this resolution were defeated. After the conference,

however, they not only persisted in their mistakes, but even committed worse ones. Pointing to the unsatisfactory composition of the Social Democratic fraction in the Duma, to the mistakes it had committed and also to the difficulties of working in the Black Hundred Third Duma, the otzovists urged that the only way out was to recall the fraction from the Duma (Hence the term otzovist, from the Russian word *otzivat* meaning to recall.) They carried on strenuous agitation in favour of recalling the fraction and tried to win over a number of local organisations to their point of view. Although openly the otzovists opposed only participation in the Duma, in practice they were opposed to utilising any of the legal possibilities—the trade unions, co-operative societies, cultural and educational organisations, etc. By refusing to work in the legal proletarian organisations or to use them for Social Democratic propaganda and agitation, the otzovists isolated themselves from the masses of the workers.

The ultimatumists differed from the otzovists in that they proposed not the immediate recall of the Duma fraction, but that it first be presented with an ultimatum (hence the name ultimatumists) calling upon it to submit without question to Party discipline, to take part in Party work outside the Duma and resolutely and consistently carry out the Party line. The ultimatumists put forward this demand for an ultimatum merely in order to create a pretext for recalling the Duma fraction. By putting forward the demand for an ultimatum they shamefacedly screened their otzovism. That is why Lenin called the ultimatumists 'shamefaced otzovists.'

The stubbornness with which the otzovists and the ultimatumists persisted in their political errors and the harm they caused by the advocacy of their views made it necessary to raise the question of this trend at the Conference of the Enlarged Editorial Board of *Proletary* and to strongly condemn it. But the otzovists and ultimatumists did not limit themselves to persisting in their political errors. While remaining in the ranks of the Bolsheviks they began to form themselves in a separate faction. This found expression particularly in their organisation of a factional "Party school" on the island of Capri in Italy. More than that, while departing more and more from the political positions of Bolshevism they at the same time departed more and more from the theoretical principles of Marxism and tended towards idealism, towards so-called "God creating," a special "socialist" religion, into which they, in the persons of Luna Charsky and Gorky, tried to transform scientific socialism. Under these circumstances the question of strongly condemning otzovism and ultimatumism and their leaders with their anarchistic and "God creating ideas" became a particularly acute one. For that reason the Conference of the Enlarged Editorial Board of *Proletary* decided that a complete rupture with otzovism and ultimatumism as obviously anti-Party trends was necessary. It is this that characterises the resolution passed by the conference, 'On Otzovism and Ultimatumism,' which was in the main written by Lenin. Besides this, the conference passed a special resolution "On God-creating Trends in Social De-

mocracy" which declared that the enlarged editorial board of *Proletary* "regards this trend, the views of which were very strikingly propagated in the articles of Comrade Lunacharsky, as a trend which has broken with the fundamental principles of Marxism and which not only by its terminology, but by the very nature of its tenets damages the revolutionary Social Democratic work of educating the masses of the workers, and the Bolshevik faction has nothing in common with such a distortion of scientific socialism." And the conference instructed the editorial board of *Proletary* to wage a determined struggle against such trends and to expose their anti-Marxian character. The conference just as strongly condemned the attempt of Bogdanov (Maximov), the ideological inspirer of otzovism and ultimatumism, to take Lunacharsky's 'God-creation' under his protection. As a result, the conference adopted a resolution declaring that Bogdanov had broken away from the Bolsheviks and that the editorial board of *Proletary* refused to bear any responsibility for his political conduct.

While resolutely dissociating itself from otzovism and ultimatumism, the conference remained true to the struggle "on two fronts" and in its resolution opposed Menshevik liquidationism no less strongly than otzovism, declaring it also to be an anti-Party trend which had broken with the Marxist theory and the principles of the Party programme. The second resolution given here, "The Tasks of the Bolsheviks in the Party" is entirely directed against this liquidationism which by that time had definitely revealed itself as being directed not only against the existence of the illegal Party, but also against revolutionary Marxism as a whole.

In addition to the resolutions "On Otzovism and Ultimatumism" and "The Tasks of the Bolsheviks in the Party," the conference passed a resolution entitled "Attitude Towards Duma Activities as One of the Branches of Party Work" which was of great historical importance, and important also from the point of view of principle. The resolution explained the difference between "the revolutionary Social Democratic utilisation of parliamentarism" and the opportunist utilisation of parliamentarism, and uttered a warning against "the view that parliamentarism is the main, fundamental thing that is to be pursued for its own sake." In opposition to this view it expressed the opinion that the parliamentary fraction (in this particular case the Duma fraction) of the proletarian party "is one of the subordinate organs of the socialist labour movement, one of the organisations of the Party, which pursues the tactics of the Party as a whole." Accordingly, the resolution declared: "It is necessary to put into the forefront a strictly class position. It is necessary to insist on the advocacy of socialism from the tribune of the Duma, on the defence of revolutionary democratic aims and of revolutionary methods of accomplishing the task of the bourgeois-democratic revolution which still confronts Russia, to defend the traditions and slogans of the revolution, without any curtailment whatsoever, against the counter-revolutionary and particularly against the bourgeois liberal trend. It is necessary to combat



reformism, which is revealing itself (among the Mensheviks and liquidators particularly), and in opposition to bourgeois social reformism and slavish cringing before every quasi reform carried out by the Cadet Octobrist bloc in the Duma, to put forward the revolutionary Social Democratic point of view on reforms, viz, that agitation for reforms must be utilised for the purpose of propagating socialism and revolution for the purpose of rallying and training the proletariat, while the attempts of the autocracy to introduce reforms must be utilised for the purpose of creating new strongholds for the labour movement and for increasing the attack of the proletariat upon capital and the monarchy"

As will easily be seen, the resolutions of the Conference of the Enlarged Editorial Board of *Proletary* which explained to the Party and to the workers the extreme importance of utilising the State Duma in a revolutionary manner, combated both otzovism and ultimatumism, and liquidationism

PAGE 21 \* This refers to an incident which occurred in St Petersburg when the Social Democratic fraction in the Duma asked the St Petersburg trade unions to provide it with material upon which the fraction could introduce an interpellation in the Duma concerning the persecution of the trade unions. The opponents of the fraction, viz, the *otzovists in conjunction with the Socialist Revolutionaries* secured the adoption of a resolution repudiating all connection with the fraction. This was not only a violation of elementary Party discipline, but the open sabotage of one of the important branches of Party work. *Proletary* branded this anti Party conduct of the otzovists as "a new form of liquidationism"

PAGE 22 \* The Social Democratic fraction in the Duma utilised the services of so-called "experts" to assist it in examining all sorts of material, drawing up bills, interpellations, etc. Owing to the predominance of the Mensheviks in the fraction, a number of liquidators (Potresov and others) and even simply petty bourgeois democrats (like S. Prokopovich) played the role of advisers to the fraction. These "experts" led the fraction into committing crude opportunist errors and sometimes into open violation of Party directives

PAGE 22 \*\* At all these congresses representatives of workers who were organised in workers' groups attended. On the question as to whether workers' representatives should attend such congresses a very heated controversy arose in the Social Democratic Party. The otzovists, who did not understand the importance of utilising "legal possibilities," were of the opinion that the Social Democrats should not take part in them because the object of these congresses was to "drag the workers" on to the path of reformist politics. The Moscow otzovists and ultimatumists, for example, described participation in the congress of factory medical inspectors as "betrayal of the proletariat." On the other hand the Mensheviks tried to utilise these

congresses for purely opportunistic purposes, did all they could to soften the tone of the workers' speeches in order 'not to frighten' the congresses by extreme" slogans and tried to persuade the workers to believe that it was necessary to convince the liberals that the proposed reforms were expedient. The Bolsheviks were of the opinion that under the conditions then prevailing it was 'not only legitimate but even obligatory' to utilise such congresses. "It is only necessary to remember that the Social Democrats go to these congresses to take advantage of this, if modest, opportunity for carrying on Social Democratic agitation among the workers." From the point of view of the Bolsheviks it was the duty of the Social Democrats to make the utmost use of the material provided by these congresses. "In the newspapers, in leaflets, in the workshops, we must tell the workers how the workers at these congresses exposed hypocritical bourgeois liberalism and how they lashed out at the present system"—this is what the Bolsheviks wrote in the central organ of the Party *Sotsial Demokrat*. The Bolsheviks considered that these congresses were important also for the reason that they provided one of the very few available 'legal' possibilities for the workers in the proletarian movement in different parts of Russia to meet and discuss immediate problems and to bring about an actual *rapprochement* and ideological unification of the workers organisations of Russia" (*Proletary*). In connection with the congress of factory medical inspectors, the Central Committee of the Party stated that the Bolsheviks should attend the congress also because "to leave the liquidators a free field at the congress, not to be there to fight them in front of the workers, would be a real crime."

PAGE 23 \* This refers to the following circumstances

1 The "Resolution of the Central Committee on Trade Unions" was proposed on the Central Committee by the Bolsheviks and carried unanimously. The resolution declared that Social Democrats must carry on their work in the trade union movement in the spirit of the resolutions of the London Congress of the RSDLP and of the Stuttgart Congress (see note to page 16\*) in the direction of bringing the trade unions closer to the Party. The resolution put into the forefront the task of creating compact organisational nuclei in the factories which were to serve as the primary trade union organisations. Within these nuclei, groups were to be formed which were to work under the leadership of the local Party centres. Where the legal trade unions had been broken up by the police, the resolution proposed that illegal unions be formed. In conclusion, the Central Committee emphasised that the legally existing trade unions were not to degrade the militant tasks of the industrial organisations of the proletariat.

2 The "Resolution of the Central Committee on Co-operative Societies" was also proposed by the Bolsheviks and adopted unanimously. It pointed out to all Party organisations the necessity of paying particular attention to the co-operative movement and made it the duty of the members of

the Party to join the co-operative societies and assist in their development. Emphasising the necessity of getting the consumers' societies to co-operate with the trade unions and Social Democratic workers' party the resolution contained the reservation that the co-operative societies cannot serve as a substitute for militant proletarian organisations. The resolution called for a most determined struggle against all attempts to limit the organisational activities of the proletariat to the co-operative movement. As in the case of the trade union movement, the Social Democrats were urged to form compact groups in the co-operative organisations which should maintain close contact with the local Party centres.

3 Concerning the Duma fraction the Central Committee adopted a number of resolutions of a Bolshevik character which emphasised the importance of Duma work and urged the necessity of the whole Party helping the fraction, strengthening contacts with it, supplying it with material, mobilising the masses of the workers around it on questions affecting the lives of the workers, etc. At the same time, in these resolutions the Central Committee pointed to a number of concrete mistakes committed by the fraction and deviations from the political line of the Party.

4 That the overwhelming majority of the delegates at the All Russian Conference of January 1909 [December 1908] was in favour of the Party line is indicated by the fact that the conference adopted Bolshevik resolutions, particularly the resolution drawn up by Lenin, On the Present Situation and the Tasks of the Party," given in this volume.

5 By experience in conducting the central organ is meant the leadership of *Sotsial Demokrat*, which pursued the Bolshevik line although at that time it was not the organ of the Bolshevik faction (*Proletary* was the Bolshevik organ) and there were Mensheviks as well as Bolsheviks on the editorial board.

6 The workers' groups at the congresses referred to in this resolution and in the preceding note were largely under the leadership of the Bolsheviks.

PAGE 23 \*\* At the end of 1908 differences began to be revealed among the Mensheviks as between the liquidators and the so-called Party Mensheviks (Plekhanovists) who were in favour of preserving and strengthening the illegal Party. In 1909 these disagreements had become so definite that they found organisational expression. Plekhanov, who up to that time had been a member of the central organ of the Mensheviks, *Golos Sotsial Demokrata*, left the Mensheviks and resigned first from the liquidationist *Obshchestvennoye Dvizheniye v Rossii* (*The Social Movement in Russia*) (see note to page 58 \*) and later from the editorial board of *Golos Sotsial Demokrata*, which, as the resolution stated, was "completely captive" to the liquidators and was actually the ideological centre of liquidationism. In August 1909 Plekhanov resumed publication of his *Dnevnik Sotsial Demokrata* (*Diary of a Social Democrat*) which he had published in 1905-06. In his *Dnevnik* he opposed the liquidators, advocated the preservation, strengthening

and expansion of the existing illegal Party, and supported "Menshevism with out liquidationism" emphasising that if liquidationism triumphed in the ranks of Menshevism, it would make the latter hostile to Social Democracy" Pointing out that the Bolsheviks had become stronger after they had broken with the otzovists and ultimatumists, Plekhanov called upon the Mensheviks to disassociate themselves from the liquidators

In referring to the split on the editorial board of *Golos Sotsial Demokrat*, Lenin had in mind Plekhanov's resignation from the latter At about this time, disagreements among the Mensheviks were revealed in a number of local organisations A group of Mensheviks in the Vyborg district of St Petersburg issued a letter of protest against the opportunism of the liquidators who had renounced all revolutionary work, and called for unity in the ranks of the illegal RSDLP The Mensheviks in the Zamoskvoretzky and Letortovo districts of Moscow published a very sharp letter against liquidationism, as a consequence of which the liquidators refused to work any longer with the Mensheviks in these organisations Divergences were revealed also in the Bund At the 'December' Conference of 1908 the Bundists themselves declared that there were two trends in their organisation—a liquidationist trend and a Party trend In the process of joint, everyday practical work in Russia, the Party section of the Mensheviks drew closer and closer to Bolshevism When the Bolsheviks, at the Prague Conference in 1912, declared their organisational rupture with the liquidators (see note to page 149\*), a considerable section of the practical workers in Russia who regarded themselves as Party Mensheviks followed the Bolsheviks

PAGE 25 \* This draft resolution was proposed at a meeting of the editorial board of the central organ of the Party, *Sotsial Demokrat*, at the end of 1909 By the "*rapprochement* between definite factions that are strong and influential in the practical labour movement," Lenin means the *rapprochement* between the Bolsheviks and the Party Mensheviks (See preceding note) The characteristic feature of this draft resolution was Lenin's reference to the object of this *rapprochement*, namely, to wage a "determined struggle" on two fronts, and to aim the *main blow* at the liquidators "*of the Right*" from the moment that, after the decisive blow delivered by the Conference of the Enlarged Editorial Board of *Proletary* in June 1909, the liquidators "*of the Left*" could be regarded as being in the main "defeated" This resolution was not adopted by the majority of the editorial board

PAGE 26 \* At the Conference of the Enlarged Editorial Board of *Proletary*, held in June 1909, the Bolsheviks completely broke away from otzovism and ultimatumism and in December of the same year a new group known as the *Vperyod* (*Forward*) group was formed, which issued its own platform It is this platform that Lenin examines in the present article Among the signatories to this platform were Maxim Gorky, M. N. Pokrovsky, A. V.

Lunacharsky, A Bogdanov, S Voleky, M Lyadov, G Alexinsky The distinguishing feature of this programme was that it took under its wing all the opportunists who had been 'wronged' by the Bolsheviks Although it did not *openly* take the side of otzovism and ultimatumism the *Vperyod* group did actually take them under its protection, declared them to be 'legitimate shades' in the ranks of the Party and as Lenin points out, actually adopted the point of view of otzovism Although it did not *openly* take the side of Machism—the idealistic theories advocated by Bogdanov and Lunacharsky (see note to page 35\*)—the *Vperyod* group took it under its protection Although not uttering a word about God creating—as the mystical ideas advocated by Maxim Gorky and Lunacharsky were called—and while not dissociating itself from it, it counted Gorky and Lunacharsky among its leaders and thereby gave protection to this anti Marxian trend

The *Vperyod* group attributed the severe factional struggle to a very large extent to the intolerance and 'personal ambitions of certain Party workers (in this hinting at Lenin) and glossed over the principles at issue in the factional struggle and the opportunism of the Menshevik liquidators against whom the Bolsheviks were fighting This conciliatory attitude towards opportunism of all kinds both in theory and in practice led to the *Vperyod* faction becoming the common meeting ground of heterogeneous elements (otzovists, ultimatumists, Machists God creators, etc) who were united by their common hatred for Bolshevism, which, with indomitable firmness, fought against all opportunism no matter whence it came In his article, "The 'Platform' of the Adherents and Defenders of Otzovism," Lenin exposes the real character of this group and its platform and reveals that its alleged revolutionariness and Bolshevism were merely a "caricature"

PAGE 32\* Lenin here refers to the fact that the bourgeois republic in France became firmly established only in 1871, after the Paris Commune, although the first bourgeois revolution which led to the republic took place in 1789-93 Similarly referring to Germany, Lenin has in mind the fact that although the bourgeois revolution in that country occurred in 1848-49 the bourgeois state (headed by the German emperor and the German Reichstag) was established only in 1871, after Germany was united as a result of the revolutionary upsurge of the 1860's (the bourgeois movement for the unification of Germany and the first struggle of the labour movement for universal suffrage)

PAGE 35\* After the Revolution of 1905, a number of Social Democratic writers wrote in defence of the idealistic philosophy of Machism and tried to combine it with the teachings of Marx and Engels Among the adherents of this trend were Bogdanov, Bazarov and Lunacharsky In opposition to these reactionary theories Lenin wrote a special book, namely, *Materialism and Empirio-Criticism* (see *Collected Works*, Vol XIII and also

*Selected Works*, Vol XI), which, in addition to criticising the theories of Machism, explains and develops the philosophy of Marxism. In defending the Party principle in philosophy, Lenin explained that it is not an accident that the "period of social and political reaction, the period of 'assimilating' the rich lessons of the revolution," is the period when the fundamental theoretical questions, including philosophical questions, are brought into the forefront by every living trend that "Machism as a variety of idealism, is objectively an instrument of reaction, a vehicle of reaction." Reaction "does not rest content with the stick and the whip", in addition to using these it tries to corrupt the proletarian movement spiritually and to dope it with clerical Machist theories. Revealing the complete rupture with Marxism on the part of the Russian Machists in the *Vperyod* and Menshevik camps, and particularly the anti Party character of the alleged "proletarian" Machist philosophy of Bogdanov, Lenin at the same time points to the inconsistencies and philosophical mistakes committed by Plekhanov in criticising Bogdanov's theories. For fuller details of this see chapters from *Empirio Criticism* given in Volume XI of *Selected Works* and the explanatory notes to them.

PAGE 36 \* Gorky at first belonged to the *Vperyod* group and was one of the signatories to its "platform." In his views he belonged to the "God creators" and stood very close to Lunacharsky. Under Lenin's influence, however, he soon left the *Vperyod* group.

PAGE 37 \* The article "The 'Unity Crisis' in Our Party," published in *Discussionny Listok* (*Discussion Sheet*), No 1 (see note to page 48 \*), was written several months after the plenum of the Central Committee held in January 1910. In it Lenin makes a detailed appraisal of the decisions of the plenum and of the results of the new attempt to unite the Party. It reveals the profound disagreements between the Bolsheviks and the opportunists as well as the conciliators in their attitude towards Party unity. It is directed mainly against the centrist conciliationism of Trotsky, which, as a matter of fact, served as a screen to conceal desertion to the liquidators, and against the liquidators. Lenin was of the opinion that unity could be brought about only if all the liquidators and all those defending liquidationism on the Right and "Left" were cut off from the Party. The only Party elements he recognised at that period were the Bolsheviks and the Party Mensheviks, *i.e.*, the adherents of Plekhanov who at that time fought against the liquidators. Among those present at the plenum of the Central Committee were conciliator centrists like Trotsky and the Bundist Yonov, Mensheviks of *Golos Sotsial Demokrata*—Martov and others—and members of the *Vperyod* group. The two latter groups, realising that they were not strong enough to risk an open split, hypocritically declared that they would submit to the decisions of the plenum and that they would fight against liquidationism. Lenin was pre-

pared to unite with the *Golos*ites and the *Vperyod*ists in the expectation that experience would soon reveal their hypocrisy and the correctness of his point of view on unity. The reader will see from this article that the pressure of the conciliators left its impress on the decisions of the plenum. The fact that certain of the Bolsheviks (including Kamenev) were in a conciliatory mood contributed to this.

The amendments moved by Trotsky and other conciliators considerably worsened the decisions of the plenum. In the main, however, the decisions adopted were Bolshevik decisions. The plenum emphasised the necessity of adopting tactics that were directed towards winning the masses and preparing them for the revolutionary struggle. It urged the necessity of combining the legal and illegal forms of work in pursuit of these aims, the necessity of strengthening the illegal Party mainly by recruiting Social Democratic workers, and the necessity of setting up an efficient Central Committee. The plenum condemned both main anti-Party trends, *viz.*, otzovism and liquidationism, and on this basis called upon the Party to unite and abolish factions. When this resolution was carried, the Bolsheviks declared that they would dissolve their faction and cease the publication of their newspaper, *Proletary*. The plenum urged the Mensheviks to cease the publication of their factional organ, *Golos Sotsial Demokrata*. After that the plenum adopted a number of practical decisions, *viz.*, a decision to call a general Party conference in the near future to fill the vacant places on the Central Committee by co-opting additional members, a decision on the editorial board of the central organ, *Sotsial Demokrat* to which two Bolsheviks, two Mensheviks and one Polish Social Democrat were appointed, a decision on transforming Trotsky's newspaper, *Pravda*, then published in Vienna, into a popular Party newspaper, and appointing Kamenev to the editorial board as a representative of the Central Committee, and a decision on preserving the *Vperyod* group merely as a publishing group, the desire being expressed that the group cease to exist as an independent organisation.

Immediately after the plenum, the Bolshevik members of the Central Committee (in particular Comrade Nogin) invited the Mensheviks living in St. Petersburg, namely, Mikhail (I. A. Issur), Roman (K. N. Yermolayev) and Yuri (P. A. Bronstein), who had been nominated by *Golos Sotsial Demokrata*, to select two of their number to be co-opted to the Central Committee. In reply, the latter declared that they not only regarded the decisions of the plenum as being pernicious, but that they considered the very existence of the Central Committee to be harmful, and on these grounds they refused to attend the meeting of the Central Committee to be co-opted. Thus, the action of the Mensheviks prevented the restoration of the united Central Committee. Meanwhile the Mensheviks continued to publish their *Golos Sotsial Demokrata* and despite their promise to combat liquidationism, in the very first number they issued after the plenum of the Central Committee, they defended liquidationism as hitherto,

and in an article by Martov entitled 'On the Right Road' liquidationism was depicted as a legitimate section of the Party *Golos Sotsial Demokrata* continued to be the ideological centre of liquidationism. Under these conditions the Bolsheviks naturally had to intensify their struggle against it. At the same time they necessarily had to intensify their struggle against the conciliators, particularly against the centrism of Trotsky. At the Sixteenth Congress of the CPSU Comrade Stalin described Trotskyism as follows: "Capitulation in practice as its *content*, Left phrases and 'revolutionary' and adventurist gestures as the *form*, which masks and passes off as genuine the capitulationist content—this is the essence of Trotskyism" (*Leninism*, Vol II, p. 333). Never did this description of Trotskyism apply more appropriately than it did to the Trotskyism of the period after the plenum of January 1910. Capitulating before the reaction, Trotsky, in fact, slipped into liquidationism, which he merely concealed by his customary revolutionary phrases and shouts for Party unity. The attempts to influence the Trotskyist *Pravda* through the representative of the Central Committee on its editorial board, Kamenev, were fruitless, and in the summer of 1910 Kamenev had to resign. Instead of fighting against liquidationism Trotsky, like the Menshevik *Golosites*, waged a furious struggle against the Bolsheviks. It was on the basis of this common struggle against the Leninist line of the Bolsheviks that the ties between the concealed liquidationist Trotskyists, the liquidators from *Golos Sotsial Demokrata*, the liquidators from *Nasha Zarya* and the *Vperyodists* became closer and closer until finally they (without the *Vperyodists* it is true) formed the notorious anti-Bolshevik August bloc of 1912 (see note to page 180 \*), which was as devoid of principle as was the anti-Party 'Opposition bloc' that was headed by Trotsky in 1926-27. At the same time, closer ties were established between the real Party elements on the basis of the decisions of the plenum of the Central Committee. In his *Dnevnik Sotsial Demokrata* and in the central organ, Plekhanov waged an energetic struggle against liquidationism and exposed not only the outspoken liquidators, but also the *Golosites* and the conciliators. The determined line in defence of the illegal Party taken up by Plekhanov at that time was important because it helped to bring about a close *rapprochement* between the Party and the best sections of the Party Mensheviks working in Russia.

PAGE 37 \*\* In 1863, Ferdinand Lassalle formed the General Association of German Workers on the basis of a programme which he enunciated in his famous "Open Letter." This programme may be summed up as follows: 1) universal suffrage and a "free state" based on the latter, i.e., a bourgeois-democratic state; 2) the state aided organisation of workers' producing associations, which were gradually to replace the private capitalist enterprises and finally lead to socialism. The members of the General Association of German Workers were subsequently known as Lassalleans.

To counteract Lassalle's Association, the German bourgeois Progressive (Li



beral) Party organised various educational leagues for workers. Subsequently these leagues united to form the League of German Workers' Associations. The influence of the *bourgeois liberals* gradually declined in this League and at its congress in Nuremberg in 1868 it finally severed all connections with them. In the following year, the League of German Workers' Associations, in conjunction with a section of the members of Lassalle's General Association of German Workers who had fallen out with Lassalle, met in congress in the town of Eisenach and formed the Social Democratic Party of Germany. From that time the members of this Party were known as *Eisenachers*. The leaders of the *Eisenachers* were Wilhelm Liebknecht and August Bebel.

The Lassalleans and Eisenachers were divided on a number of questions of principle and practice. The Lassalleans attached no importance to the trade unions, while the Eisenachers regarded them as essential organisations of the working class. The Lassalleans were irreconcilably hostile to the liberal bourgeoisie, but they were in favour of a compromise with the conservative landlords (the *Junkers*) and of striking a bargain with the head of the *Junker* government, Bismarck, with whom Lassalle had entered into a secret agreement. The Eisenachers were irreconcilably hostile to the *Junkers* and the Bismarck government but they lacked a distinct political line in relation to the liberal bourgeoisie. The fundamental political question which divided the Eisenachers from the Lassalleans and which at the same time brought the Lassalleans into union with the Bismarck government was the question of the unification of Germany. Referring to the unification of Germany Lenin wrote 'With the correlation of classes prevailing at that time this could come about in one of two ways: either by revolution led by the proletariat, which would create a German republic, or by dynastic wars waged by Prussia, which would strengthen the hegemony of the Prussian landlords in a united Germany. Lassalle and the Lassalleans, seeing small chances for the proletarian and democratic path, pursued wavering tactics and adapted themselves to the hegemony of the *Junker* Bismarck. The mistake they made was that they diverted the workers' party to the Bonapartist state socialist path. On the other hand, Bebel and Liebknecht consistently advocated the democratic and proletarian path and fought against making the slightest concession to Prussianism, Bismarckism and nationalism' (Lenin, *Collected Works*, Vol. XVI, "August Bebel"). This fundamental political disagreement revealed the fact that notwithstanding a number of serious mistakes and opportunistic waverings on the part of their leaders, Bebel, Liebknecht and others, which were constantly criticised and corrected by Marx and Engels, the Eisenachers, in the main were a 'party of Marxists' as Lenin expressed it, whereas in the sphere of theory and practice the Lassalleans were the forerunners of revisionism in the German Social Democratic Party.

After the unification of Germany in 1871, which proceeded along the Bismarck path under the hegemony of the Prussian *Junker* monarchy, the

fundamental political disagreement between the Eisenachers and the Lassalleans lost practical significance and the question of amalgamating the two organisations arose. The amalgamation took place at a congress of the two parties held in the town of Gotha in 1875. The united party assumed the name of the German Social Democratic Party. It adopted a compromise programme which bore distinct traces of Lassalleanism. Even before the Gotha Congress Marx severely criticised this programme in a letter addressed to the leaders of the Eisenachers (Bracke, Liebknecht, Bebel, Auer and Geib), dated May 5, 1875, which was concealed by Liebknecht not only from the Eisenacher delegates at the congress, but even from Bebel, and was published for the first time on the insistence of Engels only sixteen years later, in 1891, first in *Die Neue Zeit* (*New Times*) the organ of the German Social Democratic Party, and later as a separate pamphlet under the title of *Critique of the Gotha Programme*. (For further details of Lassalleanism see note to page 245 \*)

PAGE 37 \*\*\* The *Vperyod* leaflet addressed "To the Bolshevik Comrades" was issued after the January Plenum of the Central Committee in 1910. In this leaflet the *Vperyod*ists fiercely attacked the Bolshevik adherents of Lenin and accused them of abandoning Bolshevik ideology, of surrendering the political positions to the Mensheviks and of practically transforming themselves into a Menshevik group.

PAGE 38 \* This was a collection of articles by Martynov, Martov, Axelrod, Potresov and others, published in 1910. All the articles in this Menshevik symposium were written in opposition to Plekhanov who at that time broke away from the liquidators and began to fight to preserve and strengthen the R.S.D.L.P. While glossing over and even denying the very existence of liquidationism, this symposium in a number of articles openly expounded liquidationist ideas.

PAGE 38 \*\* This resolution was adopted after the liquidationist position of the Mensheviks who were grouped around *Golos Sotsial-Demokrata* had become completely revealed. Nevertheless, it declared that "no real changes in the internal relations of our Party have taken place since the plenum which would hamper the work of building up the Party compared with the situation that existed in regard to this question three months ago at the time of the plenum, which unanimously adopted tactical resolutions on the fundamental problems of Party work." Thus, while glossing over the fact that the liquidators had violated the fundamental line adopted by the plenum, the Trotskyists insisted upon the fulfilment of the "moral political obligations" which all the factions had undertaken and on the carrying out of the resolutions that were adopted "in co-operation with the given persons, groups and institutions," i.e., with the liquidator *Golos*ites, Martov, Dan and others, notwithstanding their obvious sabotage of the decisions of the plenum.

PAGE 39 \* Immediately after the January Plenum of the Central Committee in 1910, the Mensheviks, Martov and Dan, who had been brought on to the editorial board of the central organ, *Sotsial Demokrat*, began to sabotage the decisions of the plenum. They demanded that articles be published in the paper which ran counter to the line of the plenum, protested against the publication of articles which explained the decisions of the plenum, protested against the exposure of the liquidators in the columns of the central organ etc and argued that the central organ of the Party should not pursue the political line of the Party but should provide opportunities for anti Party elements, who had been condemned by the Party, to publish their articles. Their conduct markedly bore the character of duplicity, they simultaneously occupied positions on the editorial board of the central organ of the Party and on that of *Golos Sotsial Demokrata* which defended the liquidators. Finally, in June 1911, they resigned from the editorial board of the central organ and 'on their own authority declared the central organ to be 'non-existent' and invited all the comrades to send their material, letters, etc, not to the remaining legitimate majority on the editorial board of the central organ, which of course continued to appear, but personally to Dan and Martov" (Lenin)

PAGE 42 \* This was the organ of the Foreign Committee of the Bund published in Geneva, Switzerland, in the period 1909-11. No 4 of this journal, issued in April 1910, contained an article by Yonov entitled "Factions versus Party" which was a model of unprincipled conciliationism. Completely ignoring the fundamental roots of the differences between the factions, Yonov attacked Lenin and Plekhanov because they were waging a "struggle on two fronts". Not saying a word about the opportunism of the liquidators and their champions on *Golos Sotsial Demokrata*, he tried to persuade all the factions to occupy a sort of "middle line in solving practical problems." Yonov's article was important because it thoroughly exposed the nature of conciliationism and fully revealed its lack of political principles and its impotence.

PAGE 45 \* §4 of the resolution of the plenum of the Central Committee on the situation in the Party read as follows:

"In the sphere of the ideological and political tasks of the Social Democratic movement, there have come to the fore, in their turn, such tasks as imperatively call for Party unity and create it in spite of all obstacles.

"a) The historical situation of the Social Democratic movement in the epoch of bourgeois counter-revolution inevitably gives rise as a manifestation of bourgeois influence over the proletariat, to the denial of the need for an illegal Social Democratic Party, to the degradation of its role and significance, to attempts to truncate the programme, the tactical tasks and the slogans of revolutionary Social Democracy, etc, on the one hand, and to the denial of the necessity of Social Democrats carrying on work in the Duma, of utilising legal possibilities, to the failure to understand

the importance of both these things, to the inability to adapt revolutionary Social Democratic tactics to the peculiar historical conditions at present prevailing, etc., on the other

"b) *An inalienable element of the Social Democratic tactics under these conditions is the overcoming of both deviations by means of broadening and deepening Social Democratic work in all spheres of the class struggle of the proletariat and the explanation of the danger of these deviations*

'c) The appreciation of the danger of both the deviations indicated and the task of overcoming them make it more than ever necessary to restore the organisational unity of the RSDLP and this circumstance, in connection with the objective conditions outlined above increases the necessity of abolishing factionalism, of abolishing all more or less organised factions and of transforming them into trends without disturbing the unity of Party action "

We have emphasised clause 'b' to which Lenin refers Trotsky's amendment to insert the words "overcoming by means of broadening and deepening" made this point so elastic that conciliators like the Bundist Yonov and the Menshevik *Golos*ites began to interpret it as meaning *opposition* to the struggle 'on two fronts,' notwithstanding the general meaning of §4 of the resolution as a whole For example, immediately after the plenum, the editorial board of *Golos Sotsial Demokrata*, in its "Letter to Comrades," declared that the plenum of the Central Committee "deliberately put into the forefront, not the militant slogan of preliminary 'disassociation' and the struggle 'on two fronts,' but the very opposite slogan of first uniting the illegal and legal organisations on the basis of positive work "

PAGE 46 \* §3 of the resolution of the plenum on the situation in the Party, after the state of the labour movement had been characterised in the preceding point, read as follows:

"On the basis of such a state of the labour movement there is observed everywhere among the class conscious representatives of this movement a desire for the concentration of Social Democratic Party forces and for the reinforcement of Party unity

"The broad counterrevolutionary trend among the liberal and petty bourgeois democratic strata of the people strengthens among the class conscious proletariat the striving to preserve the class Party and the revolutionary aims and methods of action, and to rally all the Social Democrats against the reinforced and attacking enemies

"The open pronouncements of the proletariat from the tribune of the Duma (through the medium of the Social Democratic deputies in the Third Duma), as well as at legal congresses and in every sort of legal institution, lead to the rallying of its forces strengthen the striving to put itself in opposition to all other classes, to exercise organisational influence on public life and in this way to preserve the revolutionary Social Democratic aims and class character of its movement

"The necessity of uniting the scattered illegal groups of Social Democrats in public and semipublic institutions and workers Party nuclei, of utilising all legal institutions for the purpose of reviving the mass movement and of converting all these institutions into strongholds of Social Democratic work are becoming more and more appreciated, the striving to put an end to primitiveness and to assist in the creation of an efficient Central Committee that will really guide the work in the localities is becoming stronger and stronger

"In addition to the striving to deepen their socialist world outlook and understanding of Marxism, the advanced workers are becoming more and more convinced of the necessity of intensifying the economic struggle and industrial unity and also of developing political agitation among the masses"

PAGE 48 \* *Discussionny Listok* (*Discussion Sheet*) began to be issued in accordance with the decisions of the January Plenum of the Central Committee of 1910 in order to provide an opportunity for the representatives of the various trends in the RSDLP to discuss the questions in dispute. The editorial board appointed by the plenum consisted of one representative each of all the trends then existing in the Party (Bolsheviks, Mensheviks and *Vperyod*ists) and also representatives of the Bund, the Polish Social Democrats and the Lettish Social Democrats. In all three numbers of this sheet were published (in 1910 and 1911) No 1 contained an article by Yonov, entitled "Is Party Unity Possible?" This article, written before the plenum, was couched in a conciliatory strain and strove not to expose but to tone down the fundamental differences between Bolshevism and Menshevism. In dealing with *otzovism* and liquidationism Yonov, however, compared them with ulcers which drew away from Bolshevism and Menshevism all the harmful elements in their midst and facilitated their recovery. He said that *otzovism* and liquidationism were causing enormous harm and that it was necessary to wage an intense ideological struggle against them.

PAGE 48 \*\* The Group of Independent Legalists consisted of the liquidators A. N. Potresov, N. Cherevanin, Y. Larin and others, who, in 1909-10, published in Russia the legal liquidationist journals *Vozrozhdeniye* (*Regeneration*) and *Nasha Zarya* (*Our Dawn*). This group actually represented the liquidationist centre in Russia and guided the activities of the liquidators in Russia. Prior to the January Plenum in 1910, some of them desired to set up their own "legal (independent) workers' party," but they were not sure that this idea would find sufficient support among the local liquidators. After the plenum, however, this striving took practical shape. The refusal of the liquidators, Mikhail, Yuri and Roman, to take part in the work of the Central Committee of the Party (see note to page 37 \*) and the publication of their platform in the form of an "Open Letter" (the "Manifesto of the Sixteen"—see next note) actually implied the establishment of a liquidationist organisation separate from the Party.

PAGE 48 \*\*\* The "Open Letter" of the sixteen Mensheviks published in No 19 20 of *Golos Sotsial Demokrata* openly advocated liquidationist views. They proposed that in place of what they called the 'old, decaying' Party nuclei 'workers industrial cultural and other organisations' be formed. At the same time they denied that liquidationism existed and declared that those 'who are falsely called liquidators' are not deserting the labour movement but are trying to attach themselves to it. This letter, which was signed by sixteen prominent Russian Mensheviks was warmly approved by the editorial board of *Golos Sotsial Demokrata*.

PAGE 56 \* In speaking of the political Azefism of the liquidators, i.e., by comparing the conduct of the liquidators with that of the notorious provocateur, Azef who, while in the service of the tsarist secret police, was a member of the Central Committee of the Socialist Revolutionary Party and a leader of its terrorist organisation, Lenin had in mind the double game the liquidators were playing. On the one hand, they denied that it was necessary to preserve the old Social Democratic organisation, pursued an independent policy which ignored Party decisions and Party organisations, and waged a fight against the Party, on the other hand, they formally regarded themselves as members of the Party were represented on the editorial board of the Party organ and utilised their Party position for the purpose of disintegrating the Party from within.

PAGE 58 \* *The Social Movement in Russia at the Beginning of the Twentieth Century*—a collection of articles edited by L. Martov, P. Maslov and A. Potresov, published in four volumes in the period 1909-14. These articles fully expounded the liquidationist views on the Revolution of 1905—its causes, driving forces, the causes of its defeat, etc. Originally Plekhanov was one of the editors. At first he tried to get the most pronounced of the liquidationist anti-revolutionary articles, especially Potresov's "The Evolution of Social Political Thought in the Pre-Revolutionary Epoch" (in Vol. I), corrected. But even when, as a result of his imperative demands, these articles were revised, they failed to satisfy him. Finally becoming convinced that he and the liquidationist editors of this symposium were "travelling along different roads" he resigned from the position of editor. This conflict with the editors of the symposium, including the liquidators Potresov and Martov, who already at that time were slipping into liquidationism, served as an impetus to cause Plekhanov to break off relations with the outspoken and tacit Menshevik liquidators. (See note to page 23 \*\*)

PAGE 58 \*\* The article by K. in No 13 of *Sotsial Demokrat* painted a very gloomy picture of the dispersion of the Party organisations in the years of reaction and the consternation prevailing among a section of the workers in Russia as a consequence of it. At the same time, however, the author strongly urged the necessity of strengthening the old Social Democratic movement, pointed to signs of revival among the Party organisations and deplored the future tasks in optimistic colours.

PAGE 60 \* The letter of the Central Committee of the RSDLP on the "Ordinary Party Conference," issued in February 1910, dealt with the preparations for the Party conference. The letter was drawn up by a committee consisting of Zinoviev, Dubrovinsky and Martov and strongly urged dissociation from liquidationism. At the same time Martov published an article in *Golos Sotsial Demokrat* entitled "On the Right Road," in which he did everything to whitewash liquidationism and carefully covered up its anti Party nature. It is this duplicity and hypocrisy of Martov that Lenin refers to in his article.

PAGE 61 \* The January Plenum of the Central Committee of 1910 while condemning liquidationism, emphasised the necessity of drawing into Party life those Social Democratic workers in the legal organisations who remained loyal to the Party, submitted to its leadership, etc. Immediately after the plenum the Mensheviks began to interpret the Central Committee's decision to mean that the Central Committee regarded all the workers in the legal organisations, irrespective of their attitude towards liquidationism and irrespective of whether they submitted to the Party organisations or not, as members of the Party. In advocating this theory of "equal rights for legal individuals" Martov went to the length not only of denying the existence of liquidationism, but of depicting the liquidators as being almost the most valuable section of the Party. For example, he wrote that the cause of the "liquidators in the surest possible way prepared the elements for the real revival of the Social Democratic Party organisations" and that "those who were christened 'liquidators' saved the honour of Russian Social Democracy in the gloomiest days of the collapse of the whole proletarian movement."

PAGE 61 \*\* Lenin refers to his article entitled "One of the Obstacles to Party Unity," published in *Sotsial Demokrat*, No 13, which was written in opposition to Trotsky. In this article Lenin showed that Trotsky ignored the anti Party conduct and splitting tactics of the liquidators, refused to discuss these problems and thus actually defended the liquidators. At the same time, he said, Trotsky completely ignored the fact that "among the Mensheviks a Plekhanovist and 'Party Menshevik' trend has arisen which remains loyal to the RSDLP and which is waging a struggle against liquidationism."

PAGE 62 \* Lenin refers to sections 3 and 4 of this article which have been omitted in this volume. In these sections Lenin quoted a declaration made at the plenum by Trotsky, the Poles, the Bundists and the Letts to the following effect: "While of the opinion that the trend referred to in the resolution should rightly be described as 'liquidationism,' which must be combated, nevertheless, bearing in mind the declaration made by the Menshevik comrades that they are of the opinion that this trend must be combated but that the term employed in the resolution bears a factional character di

rected against them, the Mensheviks—we, in order to remove all unnecessary obstacles to Party unity, propose that this term be deleted from the resolution "

Later on, when §1 of the resolution on the situation in the Party was being discussed (to which the Mensheviks had moved a number of amendments) Martov made a special reservation to the effect that these amendments must not be interpreted in a liquidationist sense. All this gave Lenin grounds for asserting that a condition for agreement was the transition of the *Golosites* to the position of Plekhanov, i.e., to the Party position.

PAGE 63 \* This slogan was first advanced by Lenin in November 1909 at a meeting of the editorial board of *Proletary* (see Draft Resolution on the Consolidation of the Party and of its Unity," in this volume) and again at the January Plenum of the Central Committee of 1910. It implied the necessity of uniting the Bolsheviks and the Party Mensheviks (Plekhanovists) for the struggle against liquidationism and otzovism. Both at the plenum and after it, the Mensheviks strongly opposed this slogan as well as the very idea of singling out a Party (Plekhanovist) trend in Menshevism. In No. 19-20 of *Golos Sotsial Demokrata* the editors of that journal described this slogan as "reactionary" and declared that its application would lop off from the Party the virile Social Democratic elements of the legal labour movement, i.e., the very liquidationist elements against whom this slogan was primarily directed. In the same issue of *Golos Sotsial Demokrata* a fierce attack was made upon Plekhanov on the grounds that it was Plekhanov who was a liquidator, because he and his adherents "cling to obsolete forms [i.e., the illegal RSDLP—Ed] and thereby hinder its free development."

PAGE 64 \* Plekhanov had already openly opposed the liquidators and *Golos Sotsial Demokrata* which supported them in August 1909, when, after an interruption of three years, his *Dnevnik Sotsial Demokrata* began to appear again. At first he avoided sharp controversy with his quondam Menshevik friends, but in No. 13 of *Sotsial Demokrat* (May 9 [April 26], 1910) he published an article entitled "Concerning Piffie and Particularly Concerning Mr. Potresov," in which he very sharply attacked liquidationism and in particular attacked his old colleague, Potresov, exposed the anti Party character of liquidationism which, to quote Plekhanov's words, was "a manifestation of bourgeois influence over the proletariat."

PAGE 64 \*\* This evidently refers to the pronouncements made by Maximov (A. A. Bogdanov) at the Conference of the Enlarged Editorial Board of *Proletary* (see note to page 17 \*) and after it in his "Report to the Bolshevik Comrades by the Dismissed Members of the Enlarged Editorial Board of *Proletary*" (issued on July 16 [31], 1909). Maximov expressed indignation



at the *rapprochement* between the Bolsheviks and the Party Mensheviks (Plekhanovists) and accused Lenin and his adherents of betraying Bolshevism and of forming a "new centrist faction"

PAGE 66 \* From the beginning of 1906 Plekhanov had been *opposing* the boycott of the First Duma. Actually, the position Plekhanov took up implied a call for 'sober and businesslike work in the Duma' in co-operation with the liberals. At the Unity Congress of the R.S.D.L.P., held in 1906, Plekhanov expressed the view that the Duma was "on the high road to revolution" and that the conflict between the Duma and the government would compel the former to seek support among the broad masses and by that would become transformed from a weapon of the counter-revolution into a weapon of revolution. During the elections to the Second Duma he *insisted that it was necessary to support the Cadet candidates* in those constituencies where the Social Democratic candidate stood no chance of being elected. Fighting against the revolutionary slogans advanced by the Bolsheviks, Plekhanov thought it necessary to support the Cadet slogan of 'a responsible Ministry,' i.e. a Cadet Ministry responsible to the Duma.

For a short period, however, Plekhanov abandoned the idea of manœuvring with the Cadets" and drew closer to revolutionary tactics. After the dissolution of the First Duma in August 1906, Plekhanov published an article in No. 6 of his *Dnevnik Sotsial Demokrata*, entitled 'A Common Misfortune,' in which he wrote that the only slogan that could be advanced now was that of convening a constituent assembly. On this occasion Plekhanov not only refrained from adapting Social Democratic slogans to the Cadet slogans but on the contrary criticised the half-heartedness of the Cadets and contrasted them with the 'tolling" peasantry. But while speaking of the slogan for a struggle for the constituent assembly, Plekhanov was unable consistently to formulate the means of struggle which alone could guarantee the success of this slogan, *viz.*, a fighting agreement between the party of the proletariat and the parties of revolutionary democracy, a popular uprising, a provisional revolutionary government, etc.

PAGE 66 \*\* In this article Martov relates that during the second half of 1907 Plekhanov was the *only one* among the Mensheviks who strongly insisted on the publication abroad of an illegal organ (*Golos Sotsial Demokrata*), which was opposed at first by both Martov and Axelrod.

PAGE 67 \* Frederick Engels lived in London at the time the Social Democratic Federation was being formed and closely watched its development and activities. He pointed out the mistakes which the SDF committed in its tactics. He greatly mistrusted H. M. Hyndman, one of the leaders of the SDF, whom he called an intriguer and he supported that section which strove to deprive Hyndman of political influence in the SDF. In this sense we can speak of Engels' fight against Hyndman, but not against the SDF.

PAGE 68 \* This refers to an article by Kamenev entitled "The Liquidation of the Hegemony of the Proletariat in the Menshevik History of the Russian Revolution," in *Proletary*, No. 47-48

PAGE 69 \* The January Plenum of the Central Committee of 1910 passed a resolution calling for the speedy convocation of a Party conference and proposed the following items for the agenda: the economic struggle and legal and illegal trade unions; Party work in connection with Duma activities, work in the various legal societies; the organisation of propaganda and agitation, the organisational problem, etc. In view of the fact that at the plenum the Mensheviks and *Vperyodists* had unanimously adopted a common resolution of principles, the Central Committee did not put on the agenda of the conference the question of combating the anti-Party tendencies of the liquidators and *otzovists*. After the plenum, however, the Mensheviks not only did all they could to prevent the conference from being convened, but even prevented the Central Committee from being convened. The conference, without the Mensheviks, was not convened before January 1912. (See also note to page 149 \*)

PAGE 71 \* The main content of this article, published in March 1911 in the legal Bolshevik journal *Mysl* (*Thought*), is closely connected with Lenin's article "On to the High Road," with the 'Draft Resolution on the Present Situation and the Tasks of the Party' and with the article "The 'Platform' of the Adherents and Defenders of *Otzovism*" (in this volume). As has already been pointed out in the explanatory note to page 3,\* all these items are linked together by the common appraisal contained in them of the class character of the autocracy (in other words, the social structure of the government) after the Revolution of 1905-07. In his article, "The 'Platform' of the Adherents and Defenders of *Otzovism*," Lenin, on the basis of this appraisal, opposes the liquidators of the "Left", in the present article he opposes the liquidators of the Right. In discussing and adopting Lenin's resolution, "On the Present Situation and the Tasks of the Party," at the December Conference of 1908, the Mensheviks refrained from expounding their views on the character of the autocracy in detail. The fight against them on this fundamental issue, which determined the political position of the Party, developed only after the conference, when a number of articles by Martov, Larin and others appeared in the press on this subject, in which they drew certain political and tactical conclusions. At that time, Larin came out as a consistent liquidator and asserted that the bourgeois revolution had been completed in Russia, that the commercial and industrial bourgeoisie had come into power and that the further purging of the established regime of the remnants of feudalism would proceed gradually, by means of day to day reforms. From this he drew the inevitable conclusion that Social Democracy must abandon its orientation towards revolution and concentrate its efforts on securing an improvement in the conditions of the working class by means of reforms. To achieve these

aims, he argued, it was of course unnecessary to preserve the illegal revolutionary party, the struggle for reforms could be waged by a legal workers' party

Martov who was not so consistent and open a liquidator as Larin, advocated somewhat different views. He disagreed with the consistent liquidators on the question of the class character of the autocracy after the Revolution of 1905-07. He did not agree that the June 3 regime, i.e., the regime set up after the dissolution of the Second Duma on June 3, 1907, was a bourgeois regime, on the contrary, he was of the opinion that by establishing this regime the autocracy had taken a step backward towards the feudal nobility. Hence, he denied that the liberal bourgeoisie had deserted to the side of the counter-revolution and that the bourgeoisie was supporting the autocracy. He considered that there would still be a fight between the liberal bourgeoisie and the landlord autocracy. The proletariat and its party, he argued, should push the liberal bourgeoisie into this fight and, while insisting on its own rights and interests in this struggle should take care not to frighten the bourgeoisie by making excessive demands. This theory, like Larin's theory, led Martov to the position of abandoning the democratic revolution and of substituting for it a struggle for liberal reforms under the political hegemony of the liberal bourgeoisie which had obviously taken the path of counter-revolution. This also explains Martov's desertion to the side of the liquidators on other questions, in particular, the question of preserving the illegal party.

PAGE 75 \* These words were uttered by the Menshevik Dan at the December Party Conference, 1908, in opposition to armed rebellion and the revolutionary struggle in general. After the conference the Menshevik *Golos Sotsial Demokrata* declared that it "wholeheartedly" associated itself with Dan.

PAGE 76 \* Levitsky published a series of articles in *Nasha Zarya* which fully expressed the ideas of liquidationism. He asserted that history had liquidated the "underground" as the main form of organisation, that Social Democracy was ceasing to be a political party, and that it no longer existed as a definite organisation. For the sake of preserving the legality of the labour movement, Levitsky expressed readiness to confine Social Democratic work to the limits permitted by the Stolypin regime.

PAGE 77 \* By "first element" is meant state power, the government and the bureaucracy. The "second element" is the Zemstvo landlords. The "third element" is the democratic bourgeois intelligentsia in Zemstvo service, doctors, agronomists, teachers, etc.

PAGE 77 \*\* The autocratic government of Austria was overthrown on March 13, 1848, by the joint efforts of the bourgeoisie, the peasantry, the urban petty bourgeoisie and the proletariat. In the process of de-

velopment of the revolution, the bourgeoisie terrified by the revolutionary energy of the proletariat and peasantry, betrayed the revolution and entered into a deal with the old government. The petty bourgeoisie was torn by national enmity (Austria at that time included within its frontiers Germans, Czechs, Poles, Hungarians, and others), which divided the petty bourgeoisie (and partly also the proletariat) of various nationalities into separate camps. The Austrian autocracy took advantage of this dissipation of forces and crushed the revolution in Bohemia in June 1848, in Austria in March 1849 and then, with the aid of Russian troops, crushed the revolution in Hungary in September 1849. After that, reaction reigned within the country for a decade.

The defeat of Austria in the Austro-Franco-Italian War, in 1859, gave rise to a fresh revival of the social movement, particularly in Hungary. At first the government agreed to make concessions, but after national discord once again manifested itself in the ranks of its enemies, it withdrew these concessions. This reversion to reaction took place at the end of 1865. In the spring of 1866 the Austro-Prussian War began. Defeated in this war, the Austrian government was no longer able to resist the pressure of social forces which had been renewed with increased vigour. At last, in December 1867, Austria obtained a constitution by which it became the dual Austro-Hungarian monarchy, the government became responsible to parliament, the courts were declared "independent" of the legislature, and the bourgeoisie obtained wider powers to control the activities of the local agents of the government. At last, the Austrian bourgeoisie had obtained access to power.

PAGE 78 \* Lenin here compares Martov's methods of controversy with those of Burenin and Menshikov who were on the staff of *Novoye Vremya* (*New Times*), a reactionary newspaper, published in St. Petersburg by Suvorin. Burenin acquired wide notoriety for his literary dishonesty and boundless falsehood and calumny when engaged in controversy with opponents. Menshikov, because of the unprincipled and unscrupulous methods he employed, acquired the nickname of "Yudushka," after the hypocritical, avaricious and unprincipled character in Shchedrin's *The Golovlev Family*.

PAGE 81 \* The Witte reforms were the reforms introduced by Count Witte, Minister under Alexander III and Nicholas II, in the sphere of finance (the introduction of the gold currency, the vodka monopoly, high customs tariffs) and of the railways (increased assistance in railway construction).

PAGE 83 \* Lenin here refers to the activities of General Tolmachev, Governor of Odessa, a tyrant who ignored even the orders of the Stolypin government. Tolmachev was distinguished for his exceptional brutality in his fight against "political offenders" and for his extreme

intolerance towards national minorities, non-conformists and 'infidels,' i.e. those who did not belong to the Orthodox Church. The term 'renovated Tolmachevism' means that the regime of bureaucratic tyranny (like Tolmachev's tyranny in Odessa) had been preserved in Russia in a "renovated" form under the cloak of the Duma, which was the expression of the alliance between the landlords, the landlord autocracy and the bourgeoisie.

PAGE 85 \* In the period of 1848-50 Willich was a member of the German Communist League which was formed and led by Marx and Engels and the programme of which, *The Manifesto of the Communist Party*, was written by them. But although a member of the League, and even a member of the Central Committee, Willich really did not support the ideas of *The Communist Manifesto* and, therefore, did not share the views of Marx and Engels. He was a typical representative of the petty bourgeois "Lefts" in the communist movement at that time, a representative of that "petty bourgeois revolutionariness" a characteristic symptom of which has always been, and is, a lack of the materialist conception of reality, a lack of ability to take into account the objective conditions of revolution and of the revolutionary struggle, a denial of the "need for a strictly objective estimate of the class forces and their interrelations before every political action," incapability of "displaying perseverance, ability to organise discipline and firmness" (Lenin). Willich and his adherents displayed all these characteristic features of petty bourgeois revolutionariness after the defeat of the German Revolution of 1848-49. Then, wrote Engels in his article, 'On the History of the Communist League,' "the industrial crisis of 1847 which had paved the way for the Revolution of 1848, had been overcome, a new previously unheard of period of industrial prosperity had set in." Under these new conditions, as the leaders of the Communist League, and having adopted the only possible point of view that "with this general prosperity in which the productive forces of bourgeois society develop as luxuriantly as is at all possible within bourgeois relationships, *there can be no talk of a real revolution*" (Engels' italics), Marx and Engels pursued the line of patient and persistent work of preparing the proletariat for the new future class battles in 'the period of crisis that would inevitably follow the period of flourishing capitalism. And this work of preparation was to be carried on by creating, developing and strengthening an independent class party of the proletariat, because the Communist League was only the first and as yet weak shoot of this party. After having collected around himself a number of "Left" Communists as unstable as himself (Schapper and others) Willich organised an opposition to the majority of the Communist League and to its Central Committee led by Marx and Engels. At the meeting of the Central Committee of the League held on September 15, 1850, Marx, addressing this opposition, formulated his disagreements with it in the following way: "The minority substitutes for the critical viewpoint a dogmatic one, for the materialist, an idealist

one. Instead of the real conditions, *mere will* is for it the driving force of the revolution. Whereas we tell the workers: You have to go through fifteen, twenty, fifty years of civil wars and conflicts of peoples not only to change conditions, but to change yourselves and make yourselves capable of political rule,' you say, on the contrary 'We must come to power at once or go to sleep' whereas we point out, particularly to the German workers, the undeveloped form of the German proletariat, you flatter the national feeling and the caste prejudice of the German artisans in the bluntest fashion, which is of course more popular. Just as the word *people* has been made something holy by the democrats, so the word *proletariat* by you. Like the democrats, you substitute the phrase of revolution, etc., etc., for revolutionary development" (Marx, *Revelations About the Cologne Communist Trial*).

The Willich-Schapper group, which regarded not "real conditions" not classes and the class struggle, but the "mere will" of a handful of revolutionaries as 'the driving force of the revolution,' and which substituted 'the phrase of revolution for revolutionary development,' was a group of petty bourgeois "revolution makers," without taking into account the real conditions in which revolution breaks out and develops, without developing the class struggle of the proletariat, without the fundamental condition for this development, *viz*, the creation and strengthening of the independent class party of the proletariat. This group was of the opinion that it was sufficient for a group of determined and bold people to obtain arms and money in order at any moment to raise rebellion and bring about a revolution.

"The restraint defended by us," wrote Engels in 'On the History of the Communist League,' "was not to the mind of these people, one was supposed to enter into the game of revolution making, we most decisively refused." A split took place. Expelled from the Communist League, the Willich-Schapper group found their proper place—among the petty bourgeois democrats who were attacking the Communist League and its leaders, Marx and Engels, and who engaged in revolutionary clamour instead of real revolutionary work.

As Lenin points out, the fight against the Willich-Schapper group was really a fight for an independent "party based on the labour movement, a class party" of the proletariat. The fight Marx and Engels waged against the Blanquists was of a similar kind. The Blanquists, *i.e.*, the followers of the French revolutionary, Auguste Blanqui (1805-81), and Blanqui himself, pursued communist aims which they set out to achieve by establishing a revolutionary dictatorship. But they pictured this dictatorship not as the class dictatorship of the proletariat, but as the dictatorship of a handful of communist revolutionaries, and the revolution that was to lead to this dictatorship was not to be the result of the proletarian class struggle and a proletarian uprising led by a communist party, but a revolution brought about by a handful of communist conspirators. The transition to communism under the revolutionary dictatorship was depicted by the Blanquists not as the result of a whole transitional period of socialist construction

and class struggle for the abolition of classes and the building of classless, socialist society by the proletariat at the head of the masses of the toilers under the leadership of a communist party but as a result of the 'introduction of communism' from above, almost in twenty four hours, without any transitional period. In his examination of "The Programme of the Blanquist Communards" who in 1873 broke away from the First International and formed the 'Revolutionary Commune Group,' Engels wrote "The thirty three are Communists because they imagine that merely because they have the good intentions of skipping intermediate stations and compromises that settles the matter, and if it begins' in the next few days—as has been definitely settled—and they once come to the helm, 'communism will be introduced' the day after tomorrow. If this is not immediately possible, they are not Communists."

PAGE 85 \*\* In 1879, Höchberg, a member of the German Social Democratic Party, published a collection of articles under the title *Year Book of Social Science and Social Politics*, which included an article jointly written by Schramm, Bernstein and Höchberg. In this article the authors rebuked the Party for its hostility towards the bourgeois democrats. They said that the Party confined itself to holding meetings, but was entirely ignorant of theory, at meetings the members of the Party behaved badly and displayed a passion for "strong catchwords." They accused the Party of not adapting itself sufficiently to the conditions prevailing in Germany; they said that the Party itself was to blame for the persecution to which it was subjected by the government, and that by its conduct it was frightening away the bourgeoisie instead of winning it over to its side, together with "all honest people generally" who would willingly march shoulder to shoulder with the proletariat, "by energetic propaganda among the so-called upper strata of society."

Almost simultaneously with the appearance of this article the Social Democratic fraction in the Reichstag followed in the wake of the bourgeoisie during the debate on the introduction of Protection. A number of Social Democrats voted with the liberals, some voted with the conservatives and some abstained from voting.

At the end of 1879 the Social Democratic Party of Germany began to publish *Sozialdemokrat*, in which articles appeared condemning all war (and hence revolutionary war), declaring the aim of the Party to be the brotherhood of "all men" etc.

In a number of letters to the leaders of this party, Marx and Engels sharply and categorically protested against these and similar manifestations of opportunism in the ranks of German Social Democracy. In particular, in their letter to Behel, Liebknecht, Bracke and others, dated 1879, they wrote concerning the article by Schramm, Bernstein and Höchberg as follows: "If these gentlemen constitute themselves as a Social Democratic Petty Bourgeois Party they have a perfect right to do so."

But in a workers' party they are an adulterating element. If reasons exist for tolerating them there for the moment it is also a duty *only* to tolerate them, to allow them no influence in the Party leadership and to remain aware that a break with them is only a matter of time. This time moreover, seems to have come. How the Party can tolerate the authors of this article in its midst any longer is incomprehensible to us. And should even the leadership of the Party fall more or less into the hands of such people the Party would simply be castrated and its proletarian incisiveness would be at an end.' They go on to state that: "For almost forty years we have stressed the class struggle as the immediate driving force of history, and in particular the class struggle between the bourgeoisie and the proletariat as the great lever of the modern social revolution. It is therefore impossible for us to co-operate with people who wish to expunge this class struggle from the movement." In connection with the proposal to publish an illegal organ of the German Social Democratic Party in Switzerland, Marx and Engels wrote: "If the new Party organ adopts an attitude corresponding to the views of these gentlemen, if it is bourgeois and not proletarian, nothing remains for us, much though we should regret it, but publicly to declare our opposition, and to dissolve the solidarity with which we have hitherto represented the German Party abroad. But it is to be hoped that things will not come to that." (*The Correspondence of Marx and Engels*, No. 170, September-October 1879.)

Things did not come "to that" while Marx and Engels were alive, but they did later. The leaders of the German Social Democratic Party who subsequently became the leaders of the Second International also, did not adopt the course towards "a break" with the opportunists which Marx and Engels had advised in their letter. On the contrary, from concessions to opportunism, step by step, they slipped into opportunism themselves. Finally, the German Social Democratic Party, as well as all the parties affiliated to the Second International, became transformed into bourgeois social fascist parties. Lenin and the Bolsheviks alone, continuing the fight that Marx and Engels waged on two fronts, were able, from the very rise of Bolshevism, to pursue a course towards a break with opportunism and to pursue it to the very end by creating the invincible Bolshevik Party, the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, and the Third, Communist International.

PAGE 86 \* Lenin here refers to the leading article in *Rech* (Speech), the organ of the Constitutional Democrats, in its issue of February 3 [January 21], 1911. In this article the editor argues that in the face of the common enemy of government reaction, all the "opposition" trends should unite in one common camp and put in the background all differences of programme. "At the present time in Russia," stated the leading article, "political tendencies are more and more becoming merged in two great camps *for* a constitution and *against* it. In mentioning this leading article Lenin shows that in substance Martov's views coincided with those of the Cadet newspaper.



PAGE 88 \* At the end of the nineties of the last century the well known German opportunist Eduard Bernstein, openly came out with opportunist distortions of Marxism and advanced the theory of peaceful development into socialism, rejection of revolution, rejection of the dictatorship of the proletariat, etc. At two congresses of the German Social Democratic Party, Bernstein's views were condemned, mildly, in a centrist conciliatory manner. It is true, but nevertheless condemned. In this connection, another Social Democrat, the opportunist Auer, in the words quoted by Lenin, advised Bernstein to *act* in an opportunist way, but not to *talk* about it.

PAGE 89 \* Lenin here refers to the statement made by the liquidator Levitsky to the effect that the proletarian party must be "*not* the hegemon in the national struggle for political liberty (as hitherto), *but* a class party." In reply to this Lenin wrote that this was a formula of the most consistent reformism. More than that, it is a formula of utter *renegacy*. "To talk like this 'means deserting to the side of the bourgeoisie, to the side of the liberal who says to the slave of our epoch, to the wage worker fight to improve your conditions as a slave, but regard the thought of overthrowing slavery as a pernicious utopia!'" To preach this to the workers "means preaching the substitution of *liberal* labour politics for *Social Democratic* labour politics."

PAGE 92 \* This article, published in *Sotsial Demokrat*, No 24, of October 31 [18], 1911 deals with conciliationism in the Bolsheviks' own ranks. The split in the ranks of Bolshevism (when the *Vperyod*ists broke away) became more acute after the January Plenum of the Central Committee (see note to page 37 \*) but a number of Bolsheviks failed to understand the principles underlying the struggle between Bolshevism and the *Vperyod*ists, failed to see the anti Party character of the views expounded by *Vperyod* regarded the whole controversy as a difference of opinion on or organisational questions, and accused Lenin and his adherents of aggravating disagreements and of splitting the Party. These opportunistically inclined Bolsheviks formed the 'new faction of conciliators or the virtuous' to which Lenin refers in this article, or as they themselves described themselves, the group of 'non factional Bolsheviks,' or "Party Bolsheviks." The most prominent of these conciliators were Mark (Lyubimov), Lozovsky, Leva (M. Vladimirov), Rykov, Nogin, Meshkovsky (Goldenberg) and Innokenty (Dubrovinsky). These were joined by a number of Polish Social Democrats (Warski, Tyazko and others). At the January Plenum of the Central Committee, 1910, the conciliatory line was also supported by L. B. Kameney. In their practical work the conciliators put up determined resistance to Lenin's line of a complete break with the liquidators of all shades, on the Right and "Left," and pursued the line of unity without regard for principle.

In the summer of 1911 preparations were begun for convening the Party

conference For this purpose a technical commission was set up (see next note), but the majority on this commission were conciliators Hence, the Information Bulletin published by this commission (two issues were published) expressed mainly the views of this group of conciliators At the same time, in August 1911, the conciliators issued a special leaflet addressed *To All Members of the RSDLP*," and signed by 'A Group of Party Bolsheviks'

The first thing that strikes one in these documents is that the conciliators completely ignored the opportunism of the liquidators and *Vperyodists* More than that, as was characteristic of all the other unprincipled conciliators in the RSDLP, they expressed their indignation not with the opportunists but with Lenin and his adherents Thus they wrote that "the official Bolsheviks," *i.e.*, Lenin's adherents, had excelled all other groups in their circle factionalism and that the factional policy of Lenin and his adherents had provided justification for the factional activities of the other trends They openly declared that one of the main obstacles to the unification of the Party elements was precisely this policy, the essence of which, they said, was 'kicking out, expulsion, organisational pressure' While thus hurling their wrath at Lenin and his adherents, the conciliators took all the opportunists under their wing In regard to Trotsky they wrote that 'politically, he and his followers are nearer to the Partyists than to the liquidators' "This applies to a still greater degree to the *Vperyodists*," they added

Such were the views of the Bolshevik conciliator group of this period Lenin called them "inconsistent Trotskyists"

Thanks to the struggle which Lenin and the Party waged against this faction of "conciliators or the virtuous," the latter acquired no influence whatever in the Party and enjoyed only a very brief existence as a definite group The lessons of the struggle against it, however, as well as the lessons of the struggle against conciliationism in preceding periods (between the First and the Third Congresses, and between the Third and the Fourth Congresses of the RSDLP) were of enormous significance for the subsequent struggle the Party waged on two fronts, for manifestations of conciliationism were observed among certain elements of the Bolshevik Party even in subsequent stages of its history, particularly in the post October period (for example, conciliation with Trotskyism, with Right opportunism, with the Trotskyan rump, *i.e.*, "Leftism" after the rout of Trotskyism)

PAGE 92 \*\* When after the January Plenum of the Central Committee of 1910, it became perfectly clear that the Mensheviks were doing all they possibly could to prevent the convocation of the regular plenum of the Central Committee, a conference was convened abroad in June 1911 of a section of the members of the Central Committee *viz.*, the Bolsheviks and the representatives of the Polish and Lettish Social Democrats This "June Confer-

ence of Members of the Central Committee," as it was called passed a number of important resolutions of which the most important was that on the convocation of the ordinary Party conference. For the purpose of preparing for this conference a Foreign Organisation Committee was set up which was empowered to set up a Russian Organisation Committee *i.e.* a committee to work in Russia. For the purpose of fulfilling the technical functions abroad, *viz.*, publication of Party literature, transport, etc., a Foreign Technical Commission was set up.

PAGE 95 \* The January Plenum of the Central Committee of 1910 rejected the proposal of the *Vperyodists* that their factional school on the Island of Capri, in Italy, be recognised as a general Party school, whereupon they proceeded to organise a second school in Bologna, Italy. This school was opened in November 1910 and had twenty-one students. Like the Capri School it was a factional centre of the *Vperyodists*, all the leaders and teachers in it being adherents of that faction. Among the teachers were the most prominent representatives of *Vperyodism*, such as Bogdanov, Lunacharsky, Lyadov, Alexinsky, Pokrovsky, Volsky, Menzhinsky and others.

A peculiar feature of the Bologna School, however, was that in addition to the *Vperyodists*, a number of Menshevik liquidators (Pavlovich, Kolontai, P. Maslov, and also Trotsky) were associated with it. Thus in practice, the Bologna School expressed the co-operation that was established, after the plenum of the Central Committee, between the *Vperyodists*, the liquidators and the disguised liquidator, centrist and conciliator, Trotsky. Like the Capri School, the Bologna School was utilised by the *Vperyodists* for the purpose of training its students to become their factional agents in Russia. Owing to the fact that an *agent provocateur* had managed to get into the school, a number of the students were arrested by the secret police on their return to Russia.

PAGE 95 \*\* Lenin called the liquidators the Stolypin Labour Party because they proposed to create a legal workers' party and thus restrict the activities of the proposed party to the limits permitted by the Stolypin regime. Stolypin was Premier in the tsar's government at the time. In his article 'Reformism and Russian Social Democracy' (*Collected Works*, Russian ed., Vol. XV), Lenin wrote "Larin and Co. accused the Russian workers of striving towards hegemony (*i.e.*, of striving to draw the masses into revolution in spite of the liberals) and advised them to organise 'not for revolution,' but 'in order to defend their interests under the forthcoming constitutional changes in Russia.' The liquidators present to the Russian workers the rotten views of rotten German liberalism in the guise of 'Social Democracy' views! How else can such Social Democrats be described than as Stolypin Social Democrats?"

PAGE 97 \* The Foreign Bureau of the Central Committee was set up for the purpose of managing the Party's property abroad, its publications and

technical enterprises, of uniting the groups abroad, of maintaining communications between the groups abroad and the Central Committee in Russia and also of representing the Party abroad. After the January Plenum of the Central Committee of 1910, the Mensheviks and the conciliators secured the majority on this bureau. After the Menshevik *Golosites* had definitely turned to liquidationism, the Foreign Bureau became the rallying centre of the anti Party forces. By refusing to fight against liquidationism and doing everything possible to defend and assist the liquidators, the Foreign Bureau by its obviously factional internal Party policy, roused against itself not only the Bolsheviks the Poles, etc., but even the Party Mensheviks. Fearing that the *Golosites* would find themselves in the minority, and notwithstanding the decisions of the plenum of the Central Committee and the definite requirements of the Party rules, the Foreign Bureau refused to convene another plenum of the Central Committee, which was the only way out of the Party crisis. The conference of the members of the Central Committee, held in June 1911 (see note to page 92 \*\*), was obliged in its resolution, to place on record "the anti Party factional policy" of the Foreign Bureau which violated the clear and precise decisions of the Central Committee. After this conference the Foreign Bureau began an intense struggle against the decisions of the conference and did everything it could to prevent the convocation of a Party conference. In the end, the Bolshevik representative, Comrade Alexandrov (N. A. Semashko) resigned from the Foreign Bureau. This marked the final rupture between the Foreign Bureau and the Bolsheviks and the complete transformation of the Foreign Bureau into an organ of the adherents and defenders of liquidationism.

PAGE 97 \*\* This resolution, drawn up by Lenin, is given in full in *Collected Works* Vol. XV, under the heading "The Second Paris Group." This was the Paris Bolshevik group to assist the RSDLP the majority of which consisted of Lenin's adherents, while the minority adhered to the conciliators. In addition to this 'Assistance Group' there was a Menshevik group in Paris which called itself the Paris Group. Hence, Lenin refers to the first mentioned group as the "Second Paris Group."

PAGE 101 \* Lenin here refers to the split between the Bolsheviks and the Mensheviks, which took place at the Second Congress of the RSDLP in 1903, and the struggle between these two factions that was waged in the subsequent period right up to 1905 when the Bolsheviks convened the Third Congress of the Party. The Mensheviks refused to attend the Party congress and convened their own Menshevik conference in Geneva.

PAGE 102 \* Concerning the betrayal of the Party by Mikhail, Yury and Roman, see "Notes of a Publicist, II The 'Unity Crisis' in our Party," in this volume,

PAGE 102 \*\* *Rabochaya Gazeta* (*Workers Gazette*) appeared from November 1910 to August 1912 under the editorship of Lenin, Zinoviev and Kamenev. Nine issues appeared in all. This strictly Bolshevik newspaper was intended principally for "the new generation of working class Social Democrats," and it set itself the aim of 'assisting them to understand the complicated economic and political problems of the day' (as distinct from *Sotsial Demokrat* which was the central leading organ of the Party intended principally for the leading Party cadres).

PAGE 102 \*\*\* Lenin here refers to the fact that Kamenev was compelled by Trotsky's behaviour to resign from the editorial board of the latter's Vienna *Pravda*, to which Kamenev had been delegated as a representative of the Central Committee after the plenum of 1910 (See note to page 37 \*).

PAGE 104 \* After the January Plenum of the Central Committee of 1910 the editorial board of the central organ of the Party, *Sotsial Demokrat*, consisted of the Bolsheviks—Lenin and Zinoviev, the Mensheviks—Martov and Dan, and the Polish Social Democrat—Warski, who was afterwards replaced by Leder.

PAGE 105 \* *Rabochaya Zhizn* (*Workers' Life*) was a monthly Social Democratic journal published jointly in Paris by the Bolshevik conciliators and the liquidator *Golos*ites. Only three issues were published—in March, April and May 1911. Its editorial board consisted of two Bolshevik-conciliators—Lyubimov and Vladimirov—and two *Golos*ites. The journal was intended for Russian political emigrant workers, it devoted its columns mainly to the French labour movement, ignored the problems of the internal Party struggle and hardly ever referred to the affairs of the RSDLP. In this way it tried to emphasise its alleged "non factional" position. Trotsky praised this 'non factionalism' in a special review of *Rabochaya Zhizn*, in No. 21 of his Vienna *Pravda*.

PAGE 108 \* No. 20 of Trotsky's Vienna *Pravda* of April 29 [16], 1911, published a letter from two conciliators, Hermann (Danishevsky) and Arkady (F. Kalinin), in which the internal Party struggle was depicted as a wrangle between a section of the Mensheviks and a section of the Bolsheviks abroad, and as a result of the degeneration of the leading ranks of the Party abroad. Refusing to go into the principle of the controversy, these conciliators declared that they had "no time to study factional trends." They stated that their main aim was to "unite," but they did not say a word as to whom they wanted to unite, or on what programme. Party unity could be obtained. This contempt for the fundamental principles of Party life was clearly expressed in another passage in the letter in which they declared that it was utterly unnecessary to discuss the problems that confronted the Party, and described the working out of the political line of the Party as "scribbling resolutions."

PAGE 112 \* Lenin here refers to the *Information Bulletin* of the Foreign Technical Commission, No 2

PAGE 113 \* The work of restoring the Party and of convening the Party conference initiated at the June Conference of Members of the Central Committee of 1911 (see note to page 92\*\*) made rapid progress. The Foreign Organisation Committee sent its representatives, Comrades Orjonikidze, Schwartz and Breslau, to Russia, who after visiting a number of the big organisations there, set up a Russian Organisation Committee which energetically set to work to prepare for the conference. Soon after their arrival, Comrades Schwartz, Breslau, Rykov and a number of local comrades engaged in the work of preparing for the conference were arrested. But in spite of the difficult conditions created by the vigilance of the police, the Russian Organisation Committee was able, by the end of the year, to rally around itself twenty Party organisations, by the beginning of January 1912, the conference was able to begin its proceedings in Prague (See also note to page 149\*)

It goes without saying that the work of the Russian Organisation Committee roused the fury of the liquidators, the *Vperyodists* and the Trotskyists. They regarded the preparations for the Prague Conference as Lenin's disruptive intrigues, and they poured streams of abuse on Lenin and his adherents. In retaliation to the convening of the Party conference by the Bolsheviks, the liquidators and the Trotskyists immediately began preparations to convene an anti-Bolshevik liquidationist conference, which was held in August 1912 (See notes to pages 164\* and 180\*)

The article "The Climax of the Party Crisis" was written by Lenin in December 1911 a month before the Prague Conference, and was published in *Sotsial Demokrat*, No 25, of December 21 [8] 1911. It sums up all these events in the internal life of the Party and the confusion in the Party ranks during the whole period of reaction.

PAGE 117 \* At the January Plenum of the Central Committee of 1910, the Bolsheviks declared that they would devote the funds of their faction to the general needs of the Party on the condition that the Mensheviks cease their splitting tactics. They temporarily deposited their funds with three "trustees," viz, K. Kauteky, F. Mehring and Clara Zetkin. After the plenum it was revealed that the Mensheviks were continuing their factional work, and so, on December 18 [5], 1910, the Bolsheviks informed the "trustees" that they were annulling their agreement with the Mensheviks and requested that their money be returned to them. Instead of unreservedly fulfilling this request, the "trustees," "without prejudice" to the final settlement of the question of returning the money to the Bolsheviks advanced part of the money to the Technical Commission and to the Foreign Organisation Committee for the purpose of meeting the expenses connected with the convening of the Party conference, and postponed the final settlement of the question until November 14 [1], 1911.

But the "trustees" dragged the matter out until the outbreak of the imperialist war, and later, during the German revolution, because of the depreciation of the mark, the money lost its value

PAGE 121 \* As was pointed out above (in note to page 113 \*) after the formation of the Foreign Organisation Committee which was to prepare for the convening of the Party conference, the liquidators began preparations for convening their own conference. In August 1911 they convened a preliminary conference in Berne, Switzerland, which Trotsky attended. At this conference it was decided to convene a separate conference. Desiring to give greater authority to this decision, the Bundists (represented by Lieber) and the representatives of the liquidationist Caucasian Regional Committee went to Brussels (for reasons of secrecy, Lenin refers to it as "the city of Z"), where the Central Committee of the Lettish Social Democrats had its headquarters, in order to obtain their signature to the decision (the majority of the Lettish Central Committee at that time were Mensheviks). The liquidators on the Foreign Bureau of the Central Committee calculated that in this way their resolutions would bear the signatures of "the three strongest organisations," viz, the Bund, the Lettish Social Democrats and the Caucasian Regional Committee. However, as is evident from the text of the article, the liquidators were unable to find the whereabouts of the Lettish Central Committee.

PAGE 124 \* During the period of April to June 1913, Lenin published a series of six articles in opposition to the liquidators, under the general title of "Controversial Questions." This was in the period of the revival of the revolutionary movement. The liquidators at that time played the role of extinguishers of the maturing revolution; thus the fight against them was the fight for the maturing revolution. In the legal press this fight was waged in the Bolshevik *Pravda* against the Menshevik liquidationist *Luch* (*The Ray*). *Pravda* began to appear in 1912 and was written for the masses of the workers, who had no knowledge of the internal Party struggle in the preceding underground period. It was therefore necessary in a popular, brief and concise manner to outline the main principles of the struggle against the liquidators. This is what Lenin did in these articles. Each deals with a definite aspect of liquidationism and, taken as a whole, the six articles present a complete picture of the nature of liquidationism and of the history of the Party's struggle against it. It must be borne in mind that these articles were written in a legal newspaper subjected to the censorship. This explains the cautious and restrained tone in which they are written.

PAGE 127 \* At the Stockholm Congress of the Party, held in 1906, the Mensheviks were in the majority, and the agrarian programme of the Party adopted at this congress advocated the municipalisation of the land. The Bolsheviks had opposed this demand, they advocated the nationalisation

of the land. A small section of the Bolsheviks, represented by Borisov, advocated the division of the landlords, tsar's and other lands among the peasantry.

PAGE 132 \* Lenin here refers to an article by P. B. Axelrod, entitled "A Topical Theme," published in full in the liquidationist journal *Nasha Zarya* (*Our Dawn*), No. 6, 1912, and in an abridged form in the liquidationist *Nevisky Golos* (*The Neva Voice*). In this article, Axelrod, after characterising the situation in the Party, strongly urges the need for "a radical change in the character of Russian Social Democracy from that which it assumed in the pre-revolutionary epoch and further developed in the revolutionary epoch." He described the old underground revolutionary Social Democracy, not as an organisation of the socialist elements of the working class, but as a force standing above them, "loyal to them and protecting them," but, nevertheless, a force that is "outside of them, independent of them, keeping them in a greater or lesser degree of subordination to groups of intellectuals who rely on the spontaneous masses of the proletariat and exercise tutelage over its socialist conscious representatives." After thus describing Social Democracy as an organisation of intellectuals standing above the proletariat, Axelrod called upon "all the advanced elements of the proletariat and of the intelligent advocates of the Europeanisation of the Russian labour movement" to form an "independent workers' organisation." As a matter of fact, in this article Axelrod advocated the same opportunist line towards the liquidation of the revolutionary proletarian party in Russia as was advocated by Larin and other Mensheviks in 1905-06 when they advocated the convening of a "Workers' Congress."

PAGE 137 \* *Osvobozhdeniye* (*Emancipation*) was the journal published abroad in the period from 1902 to 1905 by the former "legal Marxist," Peter Struve, and was the organ of the liberals in Russia who were then united in the Emancipation League. The journal was smuggled into Russia and distributed secretly in the same way as was the literature of the revolutionary parties.

PAGE 137 \*\* *Vekhi* (*Landmarks*), a collection of articles published in 1909 by a number of prominent authors in the liberal camp including the former "legal Marxists," Struve, Bulgakov and others. After the Revolution of 1905-07, these authors not only poured abuse on the revolution, as they did at the time of the revolution, but even went to the lengths of praising the reaction. In these articles they attacked the revolutionary parties and the mass revolutionary movement, praised the tsarist police state, and called upon the intellectuals to place themselves at the service of the bourgeoisie. The publication of this symposium marked the final desertion of Russian liberalism to the camp of the Stolypin reaction. The whole of the



Black Hundred and reactionary press in Russia warmly greeted the appearance of this volume

PAGE 137 \*\*\* Lenin evidently refers to the conference of the Progressive Group which stood close to the Constitutional Democrats. This conference took place on November 24-26 [11-13], 1912. One of the questions discussed at this conference was the transformation of the group into a party. A number of delegates opposed this on the ground that it was precisely the absence of a definite political programme and of iron discipline, which destroys individuality" that gave freedom and scope for individual opinion" and guaranteed the success of the Progressive Group by enabling it to unite within its ranks a number of elements whose opinions differed on a number of questions. Finally the conference decided that the Progressives were to continue to call themselves a group but, actually they were to form themselves into a party with a central committee. It was also decided to draw up a programme for which the platform of the group was to serve as a basis. This platform was an extremely moderate, monarchist platform, containing a number of the ordinary liberal demands, such as electoral reform, free speech, free press, right of assembly, the abolition of national and religious persecution, etc.

PAGE 137 \*\*\*\* Lenin applies this term to a number of clerical deputies in the Third Duma who supported an extremely reactionary policy and who expressed the policy of the tsarist dignitary, Sabler then Procurator of the Holy Synod, i.e. the head of the council of the Orthodox Church. The name of "Timoshkins" is applied by Lenin to the reactionary members of the Duma, of whom the deputy Timoshkin was typical.

PAGE 138 \* Lenin here refers to the so called Narodni Socialists, a group that broke away from the Socialist Revolutionaries. On January 13, 1906 [December 31, 1905], the Socialist Revolutionaries held their first congress. A section of the editorial staff of *Russkoye Bogatstvo* (*Russian Wealth*), viz., Peshekhonov, Annensky, Yakubovich and Myakotin, disagreed with the majority of the congress and withdrew. In the summer of 1906 this group formed an independent party known as the Narodni Socialist Party. It issued a draft party programme and set up an organisation committee. Peshekhonov and his group were strongly opposed to the preservation of the underground party and advocated the formation of a legal party which, they declared, would enable them to recruit forces that "could not be recruited for an underground organisation." Peshekhonov quite definitely stated that he had in view mainly "intellectual forces," which, because of the militant tactics and programme of the Socialist Revolutionaries, not only kept out of the party, but "what was still worse, were beginning rapidly to join the Cadet Party which has emerged from underground and has taken up its position in the open arena." The Narodni Socialists

were categorically opposed to realising the agrarian programme 'by seizure and partisan struggle,' and advocated the peaceful solution of the agrarian problem by a constituent assembly, undertaking to abide by its decision whatever it might be. They were also opposed to the idea of a revolutionary dictatorship which the Socialist Revolutionaries at that time supported. One can judge of the differences between the Narodni Socialists and the Socialist Revolutionaries on the question of the programme by the fact that the former deleted from their programme the demand for a republic whereas the Socialist Revolutionaries had included it in their programme.

PAGE 143 \* Owing to the severe tsarist censorship which persecuted the Social Democratic press, the writers of articles in the legal journals, both Bolshevik and Menshevik, were obliged to avoid using certain terms and to substitute conventional terms for them. For example, the censor prohibited the use of the word 'Social Democrats' and so the term 'organised Marxists' was used instead. The slogan "democratic republic" was expressed in the words 'the complete democratisation of the state system' the slogan "confiscation of the land" was expressed in the words "transfer of the land to the peasants", the three fundamental revolutionary slogans, viz., a democratic republic, confiscation of the land and the eight hour day, were expressed in the words "the fundamental conditions of political liberty, democracy and a constitutional system" etc. The readers of that period, who were accustomed to the conditions of the tsarist censorship, understood this "conventional language" and were quite able to substitute the words the authors had in mind for the words they wrote.

PAGE 145 \* Lenin here refers to the so-called social insurance campaign which the Party carried out in 1912 and 1913 in connection with the election of workers' representatives to local insurance committees and the Insurance Council. At that time a primitive form of workers' sick insurance was in operation and the workers were entitled to elect their representatives to the administrative bodies of this insurance scheme. In St. Petersburg, and in a number of other towns this insurance election campaign was conducted entirely under the leadership of the underground Bolshevik organisations and of the Bolsheviks who were active members of the legal workers' organisations. The Bolshevik press took an active part in this campaign. Among the "instructions" (or items in the election programme) advanced by the Bolsheviks was the demand for the recognition of the leadership of the "organised Marxists," i.e., the Bolshevik Party, in the social insurance movement. The Liquidators began a furious struggle against the Bolsheviks in connection with this campaign and rejected the demand for Party leadership, they claimed that the insurance movement must be "neutral".

In spite of the severity of the police regime (on the eve of the elections in St. Petersburg twenty active participants in the movement, mostly Bol

sheviks, were arrested) the campaign was very successful for the Bolsheviks. The majority of the electors adopted the Bolshevik programme, and the majority of the candidates elected to the Insurance Council were those nominated by the Bolsheviks. The same also applied to the election of delegates to the St. Petersburg insurance committees.

On the one hand, the insurance campaign proved that the majority of the workers supported the Bolsheviks and not the liquidators. On the other hand, it served as an example of how the fight for partial demands (in this case insurance) could be waged without degrading revolutionary slogans and of how these "partial demands" could be utilised for the purpose of consolidating revolutionary influence among the broad masses of the working class.

PAGE 149 \* The All Russian Conference of the RSDLP, the important resolutions of which are given here took place in Prague from January 31 to February 12, 1912. As will be seen from Lenin's articles "The Climax of the Party Crisis" and "The New Faction of Conciliators or the Virtuous" and the explanatory notes to them in this volume this conference was preceded by a prolonged and stubborn struggle waged by the Bolsheviks against the conciliators in their own ranks, and particularly against the Menshevik liquidators. The liquidators sabotaged the special resolution, passed by the January Plenum of the Central Committee of the RSDLP of 1910, on the necessity of convening an all Russian Party conference, hindered the work of preparing for the conference, deliberately put obstacles in the way of restoring and convening the regular plenum of the Central Committee and, taking advantage of their majority on the Foreign Bureau of the Central Committee, did everything they could to abolish it.

The conduct of the liquidationist majority on the Foreign Bureau of the Central Committee compelled the Bolsheviks to break off all relations with it and to take independent measures to prepare for and convene the all Russian Party conference. For this purpose a Foreign Organisation Committee to make the preparations abroad and a Russian Organisation Committee to make the preparations in Russia were formed. On the Foreign Organisation Committee the conciliators were in the majority, and they did all they could to hinder the work of convening the conference. On the Russian Organisation Committee, however, the supporters of Lenin were in the majority, and in spite of the obstacles placed in the way by the Foreign Organisation Committee the former, in a relatively short time, managed to rally around itself the majority of the illegal Party organisations in Russia, including the Party Menshevik group. The efforts of the Russian Organisation Committee to secure the co-operation of the central institutions of the national Social Democratic organisations (Poland and Lithuania, Latvia and the Bund) failed, however, owing to the refusal of the Social Democrats of Poland and Lithuania to co-operate and to their entering into a *blo* with the liquidators among the Jewish Social Democrats and the Bund.

Finally, the Prague Conference was convened, thanks to the efforts of the Russian Organisation Committee, and all the most important and oldest Party organisations were represented, viz St Petersburg, Moscow, the Central Industrial Region, Baku, Tiflis, Kazan, Kiev Saratov, and many others. Moreover, a number of organisations, which were unable to be represented, sent messages to the conference to the effect that they associated themselves with it. At the conference there were eighteen Bolsheviks and two Party Mensheviks. The conference lasted twelve days, and in addition to a number of organisational questions, such as the report of the Russian Organisation Committee, local reports, questions of Party structure, election of the central institutions of the Party, etc., it discussed a number of important questions concerning the political life of the Party and of the Russian labour movement. Among these questions were the estimation of the situation and the tasks of the Party arising from it, the attitude towards the liquidators, the work of Social Democrats in the Duma, the trade union question, the strike movement, the insurance movement, etc. The resolutions adopted by the conference on these questions were edited and partly written by Lenin, and the whole of the work of the conference proceeded under his direct guidance.

The conference elected a Central Committee consisting of seven persons (among whom were Lenin and Orjonikidze) and four candidates. After the conference, Comrades Stalin and Belostotsky were co-opted to the Central Committee. Lenin was elected as representative of the RSDLP on the International Socialist Bureau, and the conference invited Plekhanov to act as the second representative of the RSDLP on the Bureau. The work of the Prague Conference on the restoration of the Party and on organisationally reinforcing it on the basis of the principles of Leninism was the crowning stage of the stubborn fight which the Bolsheviks had waged from 1908 to 1912 against the liquidators of the Right and Left, against the Trotskyan centrists, and against the conciliationist elements in its own ranks, and thus put an end to the "Party crisis" of 1910-11. At the same time it gave organisational form to the rupture and split from the "opportunists and centrist conciliators" in the RSDLP, which, as Comrade Stalin says, the Bolsheviks brought about "long before the imperialist war (1904-12)" while at the same time pursuing "a policy of rupture, a policy of split with the opportunists and centrists of the Second International." (See Stalin, "Questions Concerning the History of Bolshevism," in *Leninism*, Vol II, p. 394.) It is this primarily that marks the enormous political significance of the Prague Conference in the history of the Bolshevik Party, which under the leadership of Lenin adopted the policy of a split with opportunism from its very initiation, in 1903 (the Second Congress of the RSDLP). It is this also which marks the enormous political significance of the Prague Conference in the winning by Bolshevism of the leading role in the world proletarian revolutionary movement.

PAGE 149 \*\* Already in 1910 there were marked symptoms of the beginning of a revolutionary revival in the labour movement in Russia, at first "incredibly slow, but after the Lena events of 1912, somewhat more rapid" (Lenin) Owing to the economic crisis, unemployment, the high cost of living and the mass starvation of the peasantry—which was the inevitable result of the agrarian policy of the autocracy—and the offensive against the working class commenced by the bourgeois-landlord reaction, a series of strikes broke out in 1910 and 1911 which in the following year, in connection with the shooting of strikers by the tsarist troops in the Lena gold fields, developed into a broad, mass strike movement (See note to page 155 \*) A revolutionary revival was observed among the students, and the revolutionary ferment began again in the army and navy

In these circumstances, in addition to the task of restoring and reinforcing Party contacts which had become weakened and broken in the period of reaction, the fundamental task that confronted the all Russian Party conference in 1912 was to draw up a distinct political platform of struggle in order to give the revival in the labour movement a definitely revolutionary character The resolution passed by the Prague Conference 'On the Present Situation and the Tasks of the Party' virtually served as such a platform

PAGE 151 \* The resolution of the Prague Conference of 1912 on liquidationism and the group of liquidators marked the completion of the four years struggle against liquidationism *within* the Party Lenin regarded differences with the liquidators not as differences on separate questions, not only as organisational differences (on the question of the *structure* of the Party), but as differences concerning the *very existence* of the Party Here there can be no thought of any conciliation, of any compromise," wrote Lenin The final organisational rupture with the liquidators of all shades was prepared for, not only by the long internal Party struggle and the overcoming of liquidationism within the Party, but also by the persistent struggle that was waged against liquidationism for the leadership of the non-Party, legal workers' organisations The strike movement and street demonstrations in 1912, the campaign to collect funds for a workers' press, the social insurance election campaign, the trade union elections, etc., etc., served as the best test of the correctness and opportuneness of the decisions of the Prague Conference concerning the liquidators, for they definitely showed that the majority of the workers of Russia, organised in the Party and in the trade unions, followed the lead of the Bolsheviks

PAGE 152 \* In his work "*Left Wing*" Communism, An Infantile Disorder Lenin, in describing the stages through which the Bolshevik Party had passed, wrote the following concerning the new revival in the revolutionary movement in Russia "Overcoming enormous difficulties, the Bolsheviks pushed aside the Mensheviks, whose role as bourgeois agents in the work

ing class movement was perfectly understood by the whole bourgeoisie after 1905, and who, therefore, were supported in a thousand ways by the whole bourgeoisie against the Bolsheviks. But the latter would never have succeeded in doing this had they not pursued the correct tactics of co-ordinating illegal work with the obligatory utilisation of legal possibilities."

This combination of illegal and legal work required that the lower Party organisations should be so built up as to ensure Party influence among the masses of the workers in the factories as well as in the various legal and semi-legal workers' organisations. This question had already been discussed at the Party conference in December 1908, which had pointed out the necessity of creating illegal Party nuclei in all factories, trade unions, workers' clubs, workers' educational associations, etc. The experience of 1908-11 wholly confirmed the correctness of the decisions of the 1908 conference on this question, and on the basis of this experience, the Prague Conference of 1912, in its resolution, "The Nature and Organisational Forms of Party Work," pursued the same organisational line as that adopted by the 1908 conference. Moreover, it linked up the necessity of further developing the illegal Party nuclei in the factories, trade unions, etc., with the task of exercising Party leadership of the strike movement which was then reviving.

The rapid and widespread revival of the labour movement in 1912 and 1913 created the need for more precise organisational instructions with a view to establishing firm ties between the lower Party nuclei and the leading organs of the Party, and with a view to bringing about unity in the leadership of this revival. Consequently, after the Prague Conference of 1912, the organisational questions were taken up once again at two conferences of the Central Committee and local Party workers: one in Cracow (then in Austria) in December 1912, and the other in the village of Poronino (near Cracow) in October 1913 (for reasons of secrecy the first was referred to as the "February" Conference and the second was referred to as the "Summer" or "August" Conference). The decisions of both these conferences were based on the instructions of the Party of 1908 and 1912, and the first of these conferences laid down the following form of Party structure: primary unit—purely Party factory committees in the factories and works. These are united and their work is guided by the Party committee of the given town. These town committees in their turn are united and guided by regional Party centres set up in the principal districts of the labour movement. At the same time they serve as a close link between the local Party organisations and the Central Committee, which unites and guides the work of the Party as a whole.

In order to maintain still closer, more live and more flexible contacts between the Central Committee and the local organisations, a "system of functionaries" was established. These functionaries were working class leaders of local work, nominated by the local Social Democratic groups

In this connection the resolution of the Cracow Conference "The Structure of the Illegal Organisations," said, "the advanced workers alone can by their own efforts strengthen and consolidate the central apparatus of the Party in the districts and throughout Russia."

The Poronino Conference in 1913 in its turn again emphasised 1) the necessity "not only of consolidating the leading Party organisations in every town, but also of uniting the individual towns with each other" i.e., of creating regional centres, and 2) the necessity of widely extending the system of functionaries, which at that time had "only just begun to be applied." The resolution goes on to say "The advanced workers in the districts must see to it that as large a number of functionaries as possible are appointed at least in every large centre of the labour movement."

PAGE 155 \* This article was published in *Sotsial Demokrat*, No 27 of June 17 [4], 1912, and was the first of Lenin's articles that explained the purport and significance of the mass revolutionary labour movement which broke out in the spring of 1912 after the shootings in the Lena gold fields of April 17 [4] of that year. In the beginning of March 1912, a strike broke out in the Lena gold fields, in the Irkutsk Gubernia of Siberia, against the terrible conditions of labour that prevailed there. The strike started at one of the workings and very quickly spread to the whole of the territory controlled by the Lena Gold Fields Co. The strike was led by a strike committee elected by the workers, it bore an economic character and proceeded in a very organised and peaceful manner. But the Lena Gold Fields Co. appealed for aid against the workers to the central authorities in St. Petersburg and the latter sent orders to the gendarmerie in Irkutsk to take measures to put an end to the strike. The gendarmes arrested the strike committee, the workers decided to petition for the release of their comrades and marched in procession to the local Public Prosecutor for this purpose. On the way they were met by a company of troops under the command of Captain of Gendarmes Treshchenko. Without warning the troops opened fire on the unarmed workers, and 270 were killed and 250 wounded. This was followed by further arrests of the strike leaders and the deportation of the workers. Finally, after a stubborn struggle, the strike was crushed by the authorities for the benefit of the Lena Gold Fields Co. But the news of the shooting down of the workers in the Lena gold fields roused the workers all over Russia. Protest strikes and meetings went on continuously in the industrial centres during the whole of April, and culminated in a gigantic First of May demonstration. The year 1912 was marked by a huge strike wave. The Factory Medical Inspectors Department registered 2,032 strikes affecting 725,000 workers. The strike movement reached its apex immediately after the Lena shootings (April and May). The mass strikes, meetings and demonstrations were held under the uncurtailed, Bolshevik revolutionary slogans. Because of its wide sweep, the movement for the first time since the Revolu

tion of 1905-07 once again put forward the task of preparing for armed insurrection. In fact it was the beginning of another revolution. Herein lay the significance of the events that were unfolding at the time. But the liquidators and Trotsky gave a different interpretation to these events. They declared the movement that had arisen to be 'a strike gamble,' and tried to induce the workers to abandon the slogans of revolution in favour of the slogan of the struggle for the "right of coalition," i.e., the right to organise and to strike under the tsarist regime.

In the present article, as well as in a number of others written later on, such as "The Liquidators Opposed to the Revolutionary Mass Strike," and "The Slogans of the All Russian Conference of the RSDLP, January 1912 and the May Movement" (*Collected Works*, Vol. XV), Lenin gives his estimation of the movement and at the same time scourges the liquidators and Trotsky for trying to extinguish the reviving revolution. He points out very clearly that the Bolshevik Party was exercising political and organisational influence and he sees in the growing labour movement confirmation of the correctness of the decisions of the Prague Conference. In an article entitled "The Development of the Revolutionary Strike and Street Demonstrations," written in 1913 Lenin sums up the movement of 1912 as follows: *The revolutionary strike of the Russian workers in 1912 bears a nation wide character in the fullest sense of the word for a nation wide movement does not mean a movement with which the whole of the bourgeoisie, or even the liberal bourgeoisie, is in agreement. Only opportunists can hold views like that. No, a nation wide movement is a movement that expresses the needs of the whole country and that strikes its heavy blow against the central forces of the enemy which hinder the development of the country. A nation wide movement is a movement that enjoys the sympathy of the enormous majority of the population. Precisely such was the political movement of the workers in the current year, a movement which enjoyed the sympathy of all the toilers and exploited, of the whole of democracy, however weak, brow beaten, disunited and helpless it may be.* " (*Collected Works*, Vol. XVI)

PAGE 156 \* In the second half of 1913, for the first time since the suppression of the Revolution of 1905-07, a revival of revolutionary spirit and activity took place among the students, and petty bourgeois democracy generally, in connection with the incipient revival of the labour movement and the strike struggle. One of the undoubted symptoms of this revolutionary revival, in addition to the strikes in the summer of 1910, were the demonstrations organised in November 1910, in connection with the death of S. A. Muromtsev, President of the First Duma, and of Leo Tolstoy. Other symptoms of the beginning of a revolutionary revival were the numerous student meetings and anti government demonstrations that were organised in university towns, the protests against the reactionary policy



of the autocracy towards the high schools and universities against the brutal outrages perpetrated against revolutionaries in the prisons and the torture of revolutionaries in the convict settlements of Vologda and Zeren-tua. In an article entitled "The Beginning of Demonstrations," Lenin sums up the significance of these street demonstrations as follows:

"The proletariat began. Others the bourgeois democratic classes and strata of the population are continuing it. The death of the moderate liberal President of the First Duma, Muromtsev, a man alien to democracy gave rise to the first hesitant demonstration. The death of Leo Tolstoy gave rise—for the first time after a long interval—to *street demonstrations* participated in mainly by students, but also by workers. The cessation of work at a number of factories and works on the day of the funeral of Leo Tolstoy indicates the beginning, even if a very modest beginning, of demonstration strikes.

'Very recently the outrages perpetrated by the tsarist jailers, the torture in Vologda and Zerentua of our imprisoned comrades who are persecuted for their heroic struggle in the revolution, have roused the ferment among the students to a higher pitch. All over Russia gatherings and meetings are taking place, the police force their way into universities, assault the students and arrest them, prosecute the newspapers for the slightest true reference to the unrest, all this only serves to intensify the unrest. The proletariat began. The democratic youth is continuing. The Russian people is rousing itself for a new struggle, is marching forward to a new revolution. (*Collected Works*, Vol. XIV)

PAGE 157 \* Lenin here refers to an article by Kamenev entitled "The Lena Massacre and the Third of June Monarchy."

PAGE 157 \*\* The manifesto to which Lenin refers was issued in St. Petersburg on the eve of May First 1912, over the signature of a committee of representatives of all the organized workers of St. Petersburg (the Social Democratic Unity Group, the Central City Social Democratic Group, the Socialist Revolutionary Workers' Group, the St. Petersburg Social Democratic Workers' Group and representatives of First of May Committees). The manifesto began by referring to the "powerful upsurge of the strike movement during the past year" and to the "spontaneous outburst of righteous anger at the very first news of the sanguinary shootings in Lena" and it concluded with the slogans that were advanced not long before that (in January 1912) by the All Russian Conference of the RSDLP in Prague: viz, for the overthrow of the tsarist autocracy, for the confiscation of the landlords' land, for an eight hour day and for a democratic republic. In an article entitled "The Slogans of the All Russian Conference of the RSDLP in January 1912, and the May Movement," Lenin wrote: "It would be worth while dealing at greater length with this manifesto because it represents one of the most important documents in the history

of the labour movement in Russia and in the history of our Party. The groups representatives etc., whose signatures appear in the manifesto, represent precisely the *underground* which is so hated by the liberals and the liquidators. From this instructive document we see that *all* the slogans advanced by the conference of the RSDLP have been adopted by the St Petersburg proletariat and reflected the first steps of the new Russian revolution. The slanders and abusers of the January conference can continue their dirty work as long as they please. The revolutionary proletariat of St Petersburg has given them their answer. The work carried on long before the last conference by revolutionary Social Democracy, which calls upon the proletariat to play the role of leader in the *people's* revolution, has brought forth fruit in spite of the persecution of the police, in spite of the wholesale arrests and hounding of revolutionaries on the eve of May Day, in spite of the flood of lies and abuse poured forth by the liberal and liquidationist press" (*Collected Works*, Vol XV)

PAGE 161 \* In order to put a stop to the wave of protests and revolutionary excitement which swept the country after the Lena shootings, the tsarist government commissioned Senator S S Manukhin ex Minister of Justice, to enquire into the Lena events. In its instructions to Manukhin, the government defined his tasks in the following way "The Member of the State Council, Senator and Privy Councillor Manukhin, is commissioned to enquire into all the circumstances of the strike in the Lena gold fields as well as into the causes that gave rise to the strike." Thus the instructions actually ignored the question of the shootings, and concentrated attention on the question of the strike. In keeping with the spirit of these instructions, Manukhin on arriving at the Lena gold fields, urged the workers to stop the strike and resume work and tried to act as intermediary between the strikers and the Lena Gold Fields Co. However, Manukhin's efforts were fruitless. Work was temporarily resumed while negotiations were proceeding, but on the refusal of the Lena Gold Fields Co to agree to raise wages and reduce the working day, the strike was resumed and lasted for several weeks longer, until about 5000 workers and their families left the district.

PAGE 162 \* In a speech delivered in the Duma on April 24 [11], 1912, in connection with the Lena events, the tsarist Minister of the Interior Makarov, said: "When, under the influence of malicious agitators, the senseless mob hurled itself upon the troops, there was nothing for the troops to do but to shoot. So it was, and so it will be."

PAGE 163 \* In connection with the approaching elections to the Fourth Duma, the Central Committee of the Lottish Social Democratic Party applied to the Executive Committee of the German Social Democratic Party for financial assistance to enable them to take part in the elections. The Executive Committee of the German Party granted the RSDLP

80,000 marks for the election campaign. This grant was made on the following definite conditions: 1) that the money was to be used exclusively for the purpose of the election campaign, 2) that the money was to be spent only in those constituencies where there was no danger of double candidatures" being put forward, i.e., the nomination of candidates of the various tendencies and factions of the RSDLP in the same constituency, 3) that an agreement be reached among the various organisations affiliated to the RSDLP concerning the distribution of the money, and 4) that trustees be appointed who would be responsible to the Executive Committee of the German Social Democratic Party for the expenditure of the money.

The Foreign Committee of the Lettish Social Democrats communicated this to the Bolshevik Central Committee of the RSDLP, the Executive Committee of the Social Democratic Party of Poland and Lithuania and the editorial board of *Golos Sotsial Demokrata* and invited them to send representatives to a conference to be held in Brussels on May 31 [18] 1912, for the purpose of deciding how the money was to be distributed. In connection with this the liquidators, in conjunction with Trotsky started a campaign in favour of transferring the right to negotiate with the Executive Committee of the German Social Democratic Party to the liquidationist Organisation Committee (see note to page 164\*) and of preventing the Central Committee of the RSDLP from having anything to do with the distribution of the money. The liquidationist Organisation Committee authorised Trotsky to negotiate with the Executive Committee of the German Social Democratic Party. The Brussels conference did not take place, and therefore the Foreign Committee of the Lettish Social Democrats proposed to the Executive Committee of the German Social Democratic Party that the latter convene a conference of eleven "centres," viz the liquidationist Organisation Committee, the liquidationist Caucasian Regional Committee, the editorial board of the liquidationist *Golos Sotsial Demokrata*, the *Vperyod* group, Trotsky's Vienna *Pravda*, Plekhanov's *Dnevnik Sotsial Demokrata*, the "Party Bolshevik" group (conciliators), the Bund, the Central Committee of the Lettish Social Democrats, the Executive Committee of the Social Democratic Party of Poland and Lithuania, and the Central Committee of the RSDLP. The Executive Committee of the German Social Democratic Party sent this proposal to all the centres enumerated and invited them to send their representatives to Berlin on September 18 [5], 1912. The letter of the Central Committee of the RSDLP—written by Lenin August 11 and 12, 1912—was the reply of the Central Committee of the RSDLP to this invitation. This letter was published at the time, together with a preface and a postscript in pamphlet form, under the title of *The Present Situation in the RSDLP*. It gives the reasons for the refusal of the Bolshevik Central Committee to take part in the conference, and depicts the situation in the Social Democratic Labour Party in Russia.

The Executive Committee of the Social Democratic Party of Poland and Lithuania, and Plekhanov, also refused to take part in this conference. In view of this, the Executive Committee of the German Social Democratic Party informed the "centres" which had been invited to the conference that while they, the Executive Committee, would keep to their decision not to grant money to individual groups they were prepared, however, to hand the money to a person who enjoyed the confidence of all parties interested and whom they would authorise to distribute it. It was in order to expose this alleged neutrality of the Executive Committee of the German Social Democratic Party behind which the latter concealed its sympathy for the campaign of slander waged by the liquidators, and which was the real reason for its refusal to assist the RSDLP and its Central Committee, that the supplement to the letter of the Central Committee of the RSDLP to the Executive Committee of the German Social Democratic Party was written by Lenin and published as a separate pamphlet by the central organ of the RSDLP, *Sotsial Demokrat*.

PAGE 163 \*\* This pamphlet was written by Lenin and represented the reply of the central organ of the Party, *Sotsial Demokrat*, to an article by Trotsky which appeared in *Vorwärts* the central organ of the Social Democratic Party of Germany, dealing with the All Russian Conference of the RSDLP in Prague in 1912. In this article Trotsky made slanderous attacks upon the Bolsheviks and asserted that the conference could not be regarded as a general Party conference as it expressed solely the views of a single group in the RSDLP, viz Lenin's group. This article, bearing the title "Incidents in the Life of the Russian Party," was published without a signature, following the official report of the Prague Conference, and served as a sort of commentary to it. In order properly to inform the German Social Democrats about Russian affairs, Lenin, in his reply, gave a detailed analysis of the main stages of the internal Party struggle which preceded the conference and depicted the state of affairs after the conference. Notwithstanding the official character of the reply (it was signed by the editorial board of the central organ of the Party), *Vorwärts* refused to publish it. The editorial board of *Sotsial Demokrat* therefore published it in German, in pamphlet form, and distributed it to the branches of the German Social Democratic Party.

PAGE 164 \* The conference to which Lenin refers was convened in January 1912 in Russia on the initiative of the Bund and the Central Committee of the Lettish Social Democratic Party. This conference was attended by representatives of these two organisations as well as by representatives of the liquidationist Caucasian Regional Committee and of the Social Democratic Party of Poland and Lithuania. The conference expressed its opposition to the Bolshevik Russian Organisation Committee (see note to page 113 \*) and to the Prague Conference, for which the former was making

arrangements In opposition to the Russian Organisation Committee and the Prague Conference, this conference set up its own Organisation Committee for the purpose of convening a "general Party" conference In connection with the discussion of the composition of this Organisation Committee, the representative of the SDP of Poland and Lithuania withdrew However the conference proceeded to set up the committee in spite of this and passed a resolution instructing its Organisation Committee to "offer negotiations to the Russian Organisation Committee with a view to co-ordinating activities in convening a general Party conference," and in the event of the latter refusing, 'to appeal directly to the groups which set up the Russian Organisation Committee' The conference also issued an official report of its proceedings in which it charged the Russian Organisation Committee with being "imposters," of causing a split in the Party, and exercising a corrupting influence" in the Party and it expressed the conviction that the Organisation Committee set up by the conference "will meet with the whole-hearted support of all those who value the preservation of our Party unity and who are no longer able to tolerate the atmosphere of factional feuds."

The only groups that responded to the invitation to attend a conference for the purpose of preparing for this "general Party" conference were the avowedly opportunist anti Party groups which were actually outside of the Party, such as the Trotskyists (the editorial board of Trotsky's Vienna *Pravda*), the *Vperyod* group *Colos Sotsial Demokrata* etc The attempt to draw the Party Mensheviks into this failed Plekhanov whom the Organisation Committee twice invited, treated this proposed conference as a liquidationist conference and called the delegates of the conference which had elected the Organisation Committee liquidators. At one of the first meetings of this Organisation Committee, which was packed with representatives of the liquidators a resolution was passed on the Prague Conference of the RSDLP—which had already taken place by that time—in which the Bolsheviks were accused of having brought about a "coup d'état" with having appropriated the "Party banner" and with deliberately leading the Party towards a split, and all "Party organisations" were called upon to protest emphatically against this alleged *coup d'état*, to refuse to recognise the centres elected at the Prague Conference and to exert every effort "to help to restore Party unity by taking part in the general Party conference to be convened by the Organisation Committee" This "general Party" conference was convened by the Organisation Committee in August 1912 It was in fact a conference of anti Party liquidationist groups At this conference they organised an anti Bolshevik bloc which came to be known as the "August bloc" (See note to page 180 \*)

PAGE 166 \* In the announcement of the proposed publication of Trotsky's Vienna *Pravda*, and in its first two issues, the paper was declared to be the organ of the Ukrainian Social Democratic League, known as the "Spilka"

This statement was based on the consent given to Trotsky by the Foreign Committee of the 'Spilka' and several of its local organisations that this paper be called the organ of the "Spilka." However, failure to obtain a formal mandate from the Chief Committee of the "Spilka" and the protest of a number of its local organisations compelled Trotsky to withdraw this title from the paper. As a result, with its third issue, the *Vienna Pravda* began to appear as the private publication of a group of *near Party* journalists headed by Trotsky, who had no permanent ties with any of the Party organisations of the RSDLP.

PAGE 166 \*\* Party Bolsheviks" was the name adopted by the Bolshevik conciliators. See article "The New Faction of Conciliators or the Virtuous" and explanatory notes to it, in this volume.

PAGE 168 \* The two members of the Social Democratic fraction in the Third Duma who were constant contributors to *Zhivoye Dyelo* (*Living Cause*) were E. P. Astrakhansev and G. S. Kuznetsov. Another contributor to this liquidationist organ, until his resignation from the Social Democratic fraction, was T. O. Belousov. The eight members of the Social Democratic fraction who contributed to the anti liquidationist, Bolshevik *Zvezda* (*The Star*) were A. A. Voloshnikov, N. M. Yegorov, I. P. Pokrovsky, A. Y. Predkalin, N. G. Poletayev, M. B. Zakharov, S. A. Voronin and I. I. Surkov. Two members of the Social Democratic fraction *viz*, N. S. Chkheidze and E. G. Gegechkori, contributed neither to the liquidationist nor to the anti liquidationist press in the period of the Third Duma, and one member, Shurkanov, contributed to both. That the majority of the Social Democratic deputies in the Third Duma contributed to the Bolshevik *Zvezda* was due, as Lenin explains, to the fact that the majority of the fraction consisted of "Party Mensheviks," *i.e.*, the adherents of Plekhanov in the struggle against liquidationism.

PAGE 175 \* An international socialist congress was to have been held in Vienna in the autumn of 1913, and the Central Committee of the RSDLP had intended to raise the question of the state of affairs in the RSDLP and of the assistance given to the liquidators by the Executive Committee of the German Social Democratic Party and its central organ *Vorwärts* which published misleading information concerning Russian affairs. Simultaneously with the international congress it was proposed to convene a congress or conference of the RSDLP at which these questions were to have been preliminarily discussed. The Central Committee of the RSDLP had drawn up a plan of campaign for the preparation of the Party congress and an agenda for it. But neither the international congress nor the Party congress or conference were held.

PAGE 178 \* This article was written during the elections to the Fourth Duma and published in *Sotsial Demokrat*, No. 2829, of November 18 [5],

1912 In it Lenin compares the election manifesto issued by the Bolshevik Central Committee with that issued by the liquidationist Organisation Committee (see note to page 180 \*) and shows that the liquidators were dragging at the tail of the liberals, that, notwithstanding the revolutionary revival, they advanced a programme of constitutional reforms under tsarism instead of a programme of revolution. And he also showed that Trotsky was dragging at the tail of the liquidators by covering up their liberal programme with a cloud of "revolutionary words."

The election platform and tactics of the liquidators were based on the so-called "theory of two camps," which was that the struggle in Russia at that time was being waged between the camp of the feudal landlords and the united camp of the liberal bourgeoisie, the proletariat and the peasantry. The latter camp, according to this theory, was fighting to preserve and improve the constitution while the former camp was fighting against it. From this estimation of the character and content of the political struggle, the liquidators drew the conclusion that it was necessary to enter into a *bloc* with the Constitutional Democrats, i.e., the liberal bourgeoisie, in order to fight for the constitution against the Black Hundred danger and they fought against Bolshevik "Cadetophobia," as they called the Bolshevik criticism of the counter-revolutionary character of the Constitutional Democrats.

As against these liquidationist tactics and liquidationist theory of two camps, the Bolsheviks asserted that the struggle that was being waged at that time was not a struggle around the question of the constitution, but a struggle for the revolutionary transformation of Russia as against a reformist transformation. In this struggle, said the Bolsheviks, there were not two camps but three, viz., 1) the camp of the feudal landlords, 2) the camp of the liberal monarchist bourgeoisie, and 3) the camp of the proletariat and peasantry. Moreover, the first two camps had entered into an alliance against the third camp, which was striving to complete the bourgeois democratic revolution, and to break down the aristocrat landlord system in a revolutionary manner. On this basis the Bolsheviks in the elections to the Fourth Duma initiated their tactics of a "Left bloc," i.e., a *bloc* between proletariat and peasant democracy, between the R.S.D.L.P. and the Trudoviki. Thus, while the Bolshevik Duma tactics represented a consistent development and application to new conditions of the old Leninist idea of the hegemony of the proletariat in the bourgeois-democratic revolution and of the alliance between the proletariat and the peasantry, the position of the liquidators during the Duma elections marked the consummation of the Menshevik idea of the hegemony of the liberal bourgeoisie in the movement for emancipation.

PAGE 178 \*\* The mutinies and attempted mutinies of the troops and sailors in Turkestan, in the Baltic Fleet and in the Black Sea Fleet occurred in the spring and summer of 1912. On July 14 [1], 1912, the sappers mutinied in the military camp at Troitsk, near Tashkent. Two battalions of sappers

mutinied against the brutal military discipline and the conduct of the officers, against the bad food, against the extremely severe conditions of camp life, against the severe conditions and long period of military service, etc. The mutineers formulated the object of the mutiny in the following words "We must organise a mutiny in order to secure a reduction in the length of service, an improvement in the food and an improvement in the treatment of the men by the officers." A few months before the mutiny there was a revival of revolutionary agitation and preparations for a mutiny in the camp, secret meetings were held, leaflets were distributed calling upon the soldiers not to salute officers, there was talk at the meetings about "doing in Russia what they did in China," i.e., overthrowing the autocracy and establishing a republic, as was done during the Chinese Revolution of 1910-11. The initiators of the mutiny among whom were men who had formerly taken part in the revolutionary movement, were in contact with the military revolutionary organisation in Tashkent, but this contact was weak and casual. The mutineers lacked a clear and distinct plan of action. As a result the mutiny was not organised and took the form of a spontaneous outburst of anger and rioting lacking the necessary leadership. After killing a number of officers who were most hated by the men because of their brutal conduct towards them, the mutineers took no further organised action, but limited themselves to desultory shooting at the units in the camp which had remained loyal. After a brief exchange of fire, the mutiny was suppressed. The mutineers were arrested and 229 were court-martialled. Fourteen were sentenced to penal servitude for life, 94 were sentenced to various terms of penal servitude, 81 were sentenced to penal battalions, 15 to disciplinary battalions and the rest were acquitted.

The attempted mutinies on the cruiser Rurik, the battleship Tsarevich and other vessels in the Baltic Fleet, and on the cruiser Joan Zlatoust and other vessels in the Black Sea Fleet, were much more organised than the mutiny of the Turkestan sappers. The sailors had militant revolutionary organisations, to which a number of Bolsheviks belonged. The organisers of the mutiny had a definite plan of action, political as well as military organisational, based upon connection with and support of the workers. The authorities, however, got wind of the preparations, and raids and arrests frustrated the plan. The arrested men were tried by naval court-martial. Of the fifty-two men brought before the Baltic Fleet naval court-martial on the charge of preparing for mutiny, a large number was sentenced to penal servitude. Of the fifteen men brought before the Black Sea Fleet naval court-martial on the charge of mutiny, three were sentenced to death and the rest were sentenced to penal servitude.

The events in Turkestan, Kronstadt and Sevastopol roused the sympathy of the revolutionary elements among the proletariat who retaliated to the punishment meted out to the mutineers by a number of strikes and street demonstrations. The Social Democratic press also devoted a great deal of attention to them. The Bolshevik press regarded these events as an expres-



along of the growth of revolutionary sentiments in the army and navy caused by the revival of the labour movement, and urged the necessity for more careful preparations for rebellion. The Menshevik liquidators and Trotskyists, however, regarded these attempts at rebellion as expressions of despair doomed to failure and openly condemned them. Thus, the conference of the liquidators in Vienna, in August 1912 (see following note) passed a special resolution, 'On Recent Events in the Army and Navy,' in which it declared that "it is necessary to call the attention of comrades to the undesirability and extreme danger of outbreaks in the army and navy, and attempts at mutiny that are isolated from the popular movement."

PAGE 180 \* The "liquidationist conference" to which Lenin refers here was convened in opposition to the Prague Conference of the Bolshevik Party by the Organisation Committee that was elected at the preliminary conference referred to in note to page 164 \* The principal organiser and leader of this conference was Trotsky. Trotsky occupied a centrist position in the Russian Social Democratic movement, i.e., an opportunist position, which at that time was expressed by liquidationism, concealed by revolutionary phrases, and at this conference he set himself the aim of forming a *bloc*, under his leadership, of all the groups that were hostile to Bolshevism, for the purpose of fighting the Bolshevik Party. The conference was convened in Vienna, in August 1912. In addition to the members of the Organisation Committee that convened it, the Menshevik *Golos Sotsial Demokrata*, the Vienna *Pravda* (represented by Trotsky), the Bund, the Lithuanian Social Democrats, the Foreign Committee of the Ukrainian Social Democratic organisation, "Spilka," and the St. Petersburg liquidationist newspaper, *Novsky Golos*, there were present at the conference representatives of only eight liquidationist groups in Russia. Many of these organisations in Russia were purely fictitious, so much so that the chairman of the credentials committee was obliged to state at the conference that "*not a single one of these credentials inspires any confidence*." The newspaper *Vperyod* had also been invited to send a representative, but, on the very first day, its representative, Alexinsky, withdrew from the conference and later published a statement in the press exposing its "false and fictitious composition." The Party Mensheviks (Plekhanovists) refused the invitation to send a representative. Thus, the conference consisted entirely of various liquidators and their defenders who were united by their common hatred of Bolshevism.

As against the Bolshevik political platform adopted at the Prague Conference, the liquidators adopted their own liquidationist programme, which was similar to the election platform of the Organisation Committee, and the "liquidationist essence" of which was "artfully concealed by Trotsky's revolutionary phrases." In its resolution the conference completely abandoned the demand for a democratic republic as an immediate slogan and substituted for it the liberal slogan of a fully empowered Duma and universal suffrage. In place of the revolutionary slogan of land confiscation, they

put the liberal demand for the 'revision of the agrarian legislation of the Third Duma.' They also completely abandoned the demand for the substitution of the armed nation for the standing army. In connection with the election of the Fourth Duma, they permitted support for liberal candidates (a *bloc* with the Cadets). On organisational questions the conference also adopted a liquidationist line and urged the need for 'the reformation of Social Democracy' and the "adaptation" of the Party organisations to the "new forms and methods of the open labour movement."

The anti Bolshevik *bloc* that was formed at this conference was headed by the Organisation Committee which was re-elected. Very soon, however, this *bloc* began to break up as the inevitable result of its "putrified lack of principles" (Stalin), its liquidationist nature and its corresponding liquidationist political platform, which were exposed by Lenin and the Bolsheviks and which were utterly incompatible with the character and the tasks of the revolutionary revival. Its break up was also due to the complete isolation of the *bloc* as a whole, and of the groups which comprised it, from the masses of the workers, and to its disregard for the masses who were entirely on the side of the revolutionary Bolshevik slogans advanced by the Prague Conference. The manner in which this *bloc* fell to pieces is shown in the article by Lenin "Violation of Unity Under Cover of Cries for Unity, III Collapse of the August Bloc," in this volume.

PAGE 182 \* The Senate was one of the supreme government institutions under the tsarist regime. Its function was to interpret the laws in the capacity of a final Court of Appeal. The decisions of the Senate were notorious for their arbitrariness. Whenever any law was found to be unsuited to the aims of the tsarist regime the Senate always interpreted it so as practically to nullify that law.

PAGE 186 \* Trotsky's "diplomatic reconciliation" of liquidationist views with Party views at this liquidationist conference logically followed from the centrism position he then occupied and which at that time already fully bore the character described by Comrade Stalin at the Sixteenth Congress of the CPSU, quoted in note to page 37,\* in this volume. Capitulation concealed by "Left" revolutionary phrases, "Left phrases" and Right deeds in defending liquidationism and supporting it in its struggle against Bolshevism on the pretext of fighting for the unity of the Party and of the labour movement—such was the nature of the centrism "diplomatic" conciliationism of Trotsky in the period of reaction and in the period of the revolutionary revival, in general, and at the liquidationist conference of August 1912 in particular. Already at that time, harbouring the elements of counterrevolution, then expressed in liquidationism, Trotsky's centrism, like Kautsky's centrism of the same period, and like the centrism (concealed social-chauvinism) of both in the period of the imperialist war, represented one of the stages of the road from the camp of revolution to the camp of the

contemporary bourgeois counter revolution which Trotsky travelled in 1927 28 It is well known that Trotsky's 'absurdly Left' theory of 'permanent revolution,' as Lenin calls it at the end of his article, Violation of Unity Under Cover of Cries for Unity," was one of the most important 'Left' concealments of the transition of Trotskyism to the camp of the bourgeois counter revolution and of its transformation into the vanguard of the bourgeois counter revolution It must be said that Trotsky never ceased to use this theory as a cloak even when he was a centrist liquidator in the period of reaction and in the period of the revival of the revolutionary movement

PAGE 187 \* Lenin wrote this article in May 1914, more than two years after the Prague Conference in 1912 Ejected from the now really united and Bolshevik RSDLP, isolated from the labour movement, and once again broken up and scattered, that is to say, after the complete collapse of the attempts of Trotsky and Co to create an anti Bolshevik liquidationist party with a centrist leadership, the anti Party groups of liquidators and centrists of all shades, which had formed the "August bloc," dragged out a miserable existence and very often were either purely fictitious organisations, or, like Trotsky's centrist group consisted of groups of non Party journalists. Under these conditions, as Lenin shows in the first part of this article, to speak of "factionalism" and "factional" struggle in the RSDLP would be tantamount to "departing" from the truth What we had was the struggle between the united Bolshevik RSDLP and non Party groups of opportunists and centrists This, however, did not prevent the concealed centrist liquidator Trotsky, who after the collapse of the "August bloc" had established a "non factional" workers' journal, *Borba (Struggle)*, from continuing to shout in this journal about the "factionalism" and "splitting tactics" of the Bolsheviks Boasting of his alleged non factionalism," hypocritically camouflaging himself with the slogan of Party unity—which had actually been achieved by the Bolsheviks in the only possible form acceptable to a revolutionary proletarian party viz unity without the liquidators and without centrists—and exploiting this slogan for the benefit of the liquidators, Trotsky continued to stand by his centrist position of defending liquidationism against Bolshevism and of propagating liquidationist views concealed by "Left" phrases The present article exposes the old anti Party position which Trotsky adhered to in the new conditions that had arisen during the two years after the Prague Conference, owing to the formation and the collapse of the "August bloc" and it describes Trotsky's political complexion and his role in the RSDLP in the past

PAGE 187 \*\* Lenin here refers to a questionnaire circulated among its readers by the Bolshevik journal, *Prosveshcheniye (Enlightenment)*, at the end of 1913 and the beginning of 1914 for the purpose of ascertaining the questions that interested them and obtaining their opinion concerning the

various sections of the journal. About forty five replies were sent in expressing the opinions of one hundred and forty three persons. An analysis of these replies, published in *Prosveshcheniye*, No 3, of March 1914, in a special article entitled "Questionnaire," showed that the readers of the journal displayed most interest in the questions connected with the nature of the disagreements between the Bolsheviks and the liquidators, the Party Mensheviks and other trends and groups. A number of readers requested that articles be published revealing the historical roots of these differences, explaining the past history of the struggle inside the RSDLP and the development of opportunism in the Russian labour movement.

PAGE 190 \* The reader will find details concerning the 'five Russian 'factions' or groups 'which claim to belong to the same Social Democratic Party' in the following articles in this volume: 1) concerning the *Vperyod* lists, in "Notes of a Publicist, I The 'Platform' of the Adherents and Defenders of Otzovism" and note to page 26 \* The *Vperyod*-lists had two groups, one in Geneva and one in Paris. While their views were identical, they had little contact with each other, 2) concerning Trotsky's group, in addition to the present article, see 'Notes of a Publicist, II The 'Unity Crisis' in Our Party" and note to page 37 \*. The Present Situation in the Russian Social Democratic Labour Party," and "The Platform of the Reformists and the Platform of the Revolutionary Social Democrats", 3) concerning the Party Bolsheviks (conciliators), see 'The New Faction of Conciliators or the Virtuous' and note to page 92 \*, 4) concerning the Party Mensheviks see the above mentioned article 'The 'Unity Crisis' in Our Party," section 7: "On Party Menshevism and on Its Evaluation" and note to page 23 \*\*. The Party Mensheviks, led by Plekhanov, fought side by side with the Bolsheviks against liquidationism and wrote for the Bolshevik papers. At the same time, they took up a separate "non factional position," as they called it, and accused Lenin and the Bolsheviks of pursuing splitting tactics, especially in connection with the Prague Conference and after it. A section of the Party Mensheviks who were connected with the practical Party work in Russia attended the Prague Conference, but Plekhanov and his immediate adherents refused to do so on the plea that it was a harmful and "schismatic affair." They also refused to take part in the liquidationist conference in Vienna in August 1912. (See notes to pages 149 \* and 180 \*) Commenting on the Prague and Vienna Conferences, Plekhanov wrote "A split is being so zealously organised by both sides that the likelihood of averting it by any means whatsoever is diminishing. Very soon, alas, we may be confronted by two absolutely independent parties. Lenin's slogan will soon become a fact. Behind whom or with whom shall we Partyists go then? The reply is clear. We shall go with neither the one nor the other." While a section of the Party Mensheviks became absorbed in the Bolshevik Party, Plekhanov and his immediate adherents maintained their separate position and became more and more hostile towards the Bolsheviks. In 1913,

Plekhanov continued to write for the Bolshevik *Pravda* for a time but in May 1914 he began to publish his own journal, *Yedinstvo* (Unity). On the outbreak of the imperialist war he, together with the small group that had gathered around *Yedinstvo*, went over to the side of the social chauvinists.

PAGE 195 \* Nozdrev, a character in Gogol's *Dead Souls*, an insolent, boastful, petty swindling landlord. Yudushka Golovlev, a character in Shchedrin's *The Goloulev Family*, an avaricious, pious, hypocritical landlord.

PAGE 200 \* The "Summer" Conference of the Central Committee and Party workers is dealt with in note to page 152. It was held in Poronino, near Cracow, in October 1913, but for reasons of secrecy, it was always referred to as the "Summer" Conference. It was attended by twenty-two persons, among whom were the Bolshevik members of the Duma and representatives of the most important Party organisations in Russia. The conference discussed the report of the Central Committee, reports from the local organisations in Russia, the strike movement, the tasks of agitation in connection with the current political situation, the question of work in the Duma, the national question, the organisational question, etc. The work of the Social Democratic fraction in the Duma was one of the most important questions on the agenda of the conference because of the differences of opinion between the Bolshevik "six" and the Menshevik "seven," who comprised the Social Democratic fraction in the Duma, and also because of the significance of the Party's work in the Duma at that time. The Menshevik "seven," of whom only three were elected by the workers' electoral college, taking advantage of their majority of one over the Bolshevik "six," deprived the Bolshevik deputies of the opportunity of speaking in the Duma, of going on Duma committees, etc., etc. All the attempts on the part of the Bolshevik "six" to arrange for joint work with the Menshevik "seven" were thwarted by the latter. The resolution of the Poronino "Summer" Conference on this question reads as follows:

"The conference emphatically protests against the conduct of the seven deputies.

"The six deputies represent the overwhelming majority of the workers in Russia and are acting completely in accordance with the political line of the organised vanguard of the workers.

"The conference is therefore of the opinion that only when complete equality of rights is established between the two sections of the fraction, and only when the seven deputies abandon their policy of suppression, will it be possible to maintain the unity of the fraction in the sphere of Duma work. Notwithstanding irreconcilable differences in the sphere of work, not only Duma work, the conference demands the unity of the fraction on the above mentioned principles of equality between its two sections.

"The conference invites the class-conscious workers to express their opinion on this subject and to do all they can to help maintain the unity of

the fraction on the only possible basis of equal rights for the six workers' deputies "

Lenin attached very great importance to this resolution as a document which testified to the readiness of the Bolsheviks to preserve and strengthen the unity of the Social Democratic fraction in the Duma on the basis of genuine Party principles on the condition that the "seven" carry out Party decisions. The refusal of the "seven" to accept the proposals of the Poronino Conference and the splitting tactics they subsequently adopted led to a split in the Social Democratic fraction in the Duma in October 1913, and to the "six" forming an independent 'Russian Social Democratic Workers' Fraction "

PAGE 203 \* The 'Levitsevis'ts' or "Levit'sa" ("Lefts") represented a faction of the Polish petty bourgeois nationalist party known as the Polish Socialist Party or PPS. After the Revolution of 1905, the PPS split up into two sections, one known as the '*frakci*,' or the "revolutionary faction," which was really the Right wing and which today represents the main core of the social fascist PPS, and the other known as the "Levit'sa" which revealed a striving to break away from the social nationalism of the old PPS and to come nearer to Social Democracy. For a long time the "Levit'sa" waged a furious political struggle against the Polish Social Democrats, who, on a number of questions, were close to the Bolsheviks, the "Levit'sa," during the years of reaction and the subsequent revival, stood close to and were supported by the Menshevik liquidators. At the All Russian Party Conference in December 1908, the Mensheviks proposed that the RSDLP unite with the "Levit'sa." The conference however rejected this proposal without discussion. The Stockholm Unity Congress of the RSDLP had concluded an agreement with the Polish Social Democrats according to which no group in Poland could affiliate to the RSDLP independently of the Polish Social Democratic organisations. In contravention of the decision of the December Conference of the Party and of the Stockholm Unity Congress, the Menshevik liquidators repeatedly took steps to unite with the "Levit'sa." The liquidationist conference of August 1912 (the August *bloc*) and the liquidationist Organisation Committee entered into a political and organisational *bloc* with the "Levit'sa," which was entirely directed against the RSDLP and the Polish Social Democrats. Taking advantage of their majority of one, the Menshevik fraction in the State Duma, in spite of the protests of the Bolshevik section of the fraction, co-opted the representative of the "Levit'sa," Yagello (who was elected to the Duma with the support of the Jewish nationalist organisations and was opposed by the Polish Social Democratic organisations). Unlike the Menshevik liquidators, the Bolsheviks and the Polish Social Democrats based their attitude towards the "Levit'sa" on the necessity of waging a struggle of principles against its half-heartedness and social nationalist survivals and they regarded this struggle as an essential condition for and the only way to *rapprochement*

between the "Levitsa" and Social Democracy. The correctness of this policy was brilliantly confirmed by a section of the 'Levitsa' drawing nearer to Social Democracy to the extent that it overcame the ideological heritage of the PPS and the ideology of social nationalism as a result of the consistent criticism to which the Bolsheviks and the Polish Social Democrats subjected the political views of the 'Levitsa'. During the imperialist war the "Levitsa" affiliated to the Zimmerwald Conference and subsequently merged with the Communist Party of Poland.

PAGE 207 \* Trotsky received the nickname of 'Lenin's truncheon' because of his speeches at the Second Congress of the RSDLP on those questions on which all the *Iskra*ists were still united in opposition to the *Rabocheye Dyelo*ists and the Bundists (the question of the Bund, the Party programme and the agrarian programme). On all other questions on which the *Iskra*ists and the whole of the Second Congress were divided into a revolutionary 'majority' (adherents of Lenin) and an opportunist "minority" (adherents of Martov and Axelrod) Trotsky was on the side of the "minority" against Lenin. (Concerning the Second Congress and the struggle that took place there, see Lenin's article "An Account of the Second Congress of the RSDLP," in Vol II of *Selected Works*.) Trotsky supported Martov's formulation of point 1 of the Party rules, in opposition to Lenin's formulation, he supported the proposal of the 'minority' to endorse the editorial board of the central organ, *Iskra*, as it then existed in opposition to Lenin's proposal to elect a new editorial board of three. He associated with the 'minority' in refusing to take part in the election of the Central Committee and in the election of a delegate by the congress to the Party Council. Thus, at the Second Congress Trotsky had already become transformed from Lenin's truncheon into an opportunist, siding with the minority in opposition to the organisational principles of the Bolshevik Party which was then being formed. After the Second Congress, as an 'ardent Menshevik,' as Lenin calls him, Trotsky was one of the most active participants in and leader of the disruptive factional "work" of the Mensheviks, of their struggle against the Party. In that period, 1903, after Lenin's pamphlet entitled *One Step Forward Two Steps Back* was published (see Vol II of *Selected Works*), Trotsky published a pamphlet entitled *Our Political Tasks* which was full of slander against Lenin and the Bolsheviks, and in which he enunciated the opportunist platform of the Mensheviks of that time, borrowing it from the article of his "beloved teacher," P. B. Axelrod. Subsequently, the anti-Bolshevik organisational views enunciated in this pamphlet together with his "theory of permanent revolution," served as the basis of the struggle which the Trotskyists waged against Lenin's party in the period from 1923 to 1927—while they were members of that party—and which eventually brought them into the camp of the counter-revolution and resulted in their expulsion from the ranks of the CPSU and of the Communist International.

PAGE 207 \*\* Trotsky "declared his solidarity with Rosa Luxemburg" at the Fifth Congress of the R.S.D.L.P. in London, in his speech on the question of the attitude to be taken towards the bourgeois parties. In this he enunciated his "theory of permanent revolution," the principles of which he had borrowed from Rosa Luxemburg and Parvus. In so far as Luxemburg's and Parvus' utopian and semi Menshevik scheme of permanent revolution" (Stalin) was reflected in Rosa Luxemburg's report in opposition to Lenin's report on the question of the attitude to be taken towards bourgeois parties, Trotsky in his speech "noted with satisfaction that the point of view enunciated by Luxemburg in the name of the Polish delegation was very close" to his own. This same "utopian and semi Menshevik scheme of permanent revolution" left its impress on the draft resolution proposed by the Polish Social Democrats on the question of the attitude to be taken towards bourgeois parties, for it underestimated the necessity for an alliance between the proletariat and the peasantry in the fight against tsarism and the necessity for a "Left bloc" between the party of the proletariat and the peasant parties (the Socialist Revolutionaries and the Trudoviki). Only after a strenuous struggle in the congress committee did Lenin succeed in inducing the Polish delegation to withdraw its resolution and support the resolution of the Bolsheviks.

" Lenin's statement that in 1906-07 Trotsky "drew nearer to the Bolsheviks" also concerns the question of the attitude to be taken towards bourgeois parties. In replying to the debate on this question at the London Congress, Lenin spoke about Trotsky's drawing nearer to the Bolsheviks in the following way: "A few words about Trotsky. I have not time here to deal with our disagreements with him. I shall merely observe that Trotsky, in his pamphlet, *In Defence of the Party*, expressed in print his solidarity with Kautsky who spoke about the community of economic interests between the proletariat and the peasantry in the present revolution in Russia. Trotsky has recognised the permissibility and expediency of a Left bloc [i.e., an agreement with the Socialist Revolutionaries and the Trudoviki—Ed.] against the liberal bourgeoisie. These facts are sufficient for me to admit that Trotsky's views are approaching ours. Quite apart from the question of 'uninterrupted revolution' [i.e., Trotsky's "theory of permanent revolution"—Ed.] we have here agreement on the fundamental points on the question of the attitude to be taken towards the bourgeois parties." The words we have put in italics show that Trotsky's approach to the Bolsheviks in 1906-07 did not preclude "differences" between him and the Bolsheviks, particularly on the fundamental question of "uninterrupted revolution," i.e., on the question of the "absurdly 'Left'" and at the same time "semi Menshevik" theory of permanent revolution. More than that, it was precisely in 1906 that Trotsky developed this theory in his pamphlet *A Review and Some Perspectives*, which even now, when he is in the camp of the counterrevolutionary bourgeoisie, he regards as his fundamental work on the theory of permanent revolution. His approach to the Bolsheviks, on the question of the attitude to be taken



towards the bourgeois parties in 1906-07 was nothing more nor less than one of the oscillations that were characteristic of centrism at that time (Trotsky in Russia, Kautsky in Germany) which on the whole maintained its general policy of adaptation to opportunism

PAGE 209 \* This article and the one following it in this volume, entitled "Once More About the International Socialist Bureau and the Liquidators," published in *Proletarskaya Pravda*, No 6 and No 11 of December 26 [13] 1913, and January 1, 1914 [December 19, 1913], were written by Lenin in connection with the decision adopted by the International Socialist Bureau on "Russian affairs" in December 1913. The liquidationist groups (including the Trotskyists) and the group of Rosa Luxemburg and Tytzhko, which supported them, appealed to the International Socialist Bureau to intervene in "Russian affairs" and to help to unite all the trends and factions in the Russian labour movement. This appeal was called forth by the failure of the liquidators and conciliators to collect sufficient forces in their own midst and in the Party to fight against the Bolsheviks, owing to the collapse of the August bloc and their failure to find these forces in the Russian labour movement and the legal workers' organizations, which followed the lead of the Bolshevik Party. The liquidators and Trotskyists were thus forced to seek support for their struggle against the Bolsheviks among the centrist leaders of the Second International, and they did all they could to secure the intervention of the International Socialist Bureau in "Russian affairs." The repeated complaints of the liquidators and Trotskyists about the "splitters" and "factional Bolsheviks," and the opportunist position taken up by the ISB itself, resulted in the latter's deciding to put on the agenda of the meeting of the ISB, which was to be held in London in December 1913, the question of "uniting the Russians." This was the second attempt on the part of the ISB to unite the Russian groups. Concerning the first attempt see Lenin's letter, under the title "To the Secretariat of the International Socialist Bureau, Brussels," and the explanatory notes to it, in *Selected Works*, Volume III.

The reporter on this question at the meeting of the ISB was Kautsky, the centrist, who had entirely adapted himself to opportunism. M. M. Litvinov, the representative of the Bolsheviks on the ISB, distributed to all the members of the Bureau the official Party material which proved that there was actually only one party in the Russian labour movement *viz*, the Bolshevik Party, which was opposed by a number of groups of intellectuals having no influence among the masses of the workers, and that the vast majority of the workers supported the Bolsheviks. Kautsky said nothing at all about this material in his report, which was merely a repetition of the liquidators' complaints about the Bolsheviks.

He stated that they were celebrating the tenth anniversary of the split in the Russian Party. Nowhere in the world had the various parties and factions in the labour movement fought so furiously against each other as in

Russia although the differences between them were less significant than the differences that existed in the German and French Parties. In such a struggle certain personalities might play a considerable rôle, and the proletariat, perhaps, was rightly angry with their conduct. Many old and meritorious Party workers had been expelled. The "Leninist group" denied that the so-called "liquidators" were Social Democrats: several groups in Poland did not regard the Lefts in the PPS as a section of Social Democracy. This, of course, he could not admit. He started out from the position that they were all Social Democrats, and as the old Social Democracy in Russia was dead there was no need for them to dig into the past, there was no need for them to condemn past mistakes: they had to find the best way out of the present situation.

In concluding this "bad speech" Kautsky proposed the "good resolution" to which Lenin refers in the beginning of this article.

Speaking in reply to Kautsky Rosa Luxemburg protested against the former's statement that "the old Social Democracy in Russia is dead," and pointed out that Kautsky's proposal could be interpreted in any way one pleased. It was necessary, she said, to restrict the right to participate in the conference by more exacting demands. Only those could take part in the conference who "recognised" not only the programme, but also the rules of the Party, and those who were actual members of the Party. She formulated her proposals in the following resolution: "The International Socialist Bureau instructs the Executive Committee to confer with the representatives of Russian and Polish Social Democracy on the ISB with a view to calling a general conference for the purpose of defining the conditions required for the restoration of a united RSDLP."

Litvinov, the representative of the Bolsheviks, opposed Rosa Luxemburg's proposal and supported that of Kautsky on the same grounds as those mentioned by Lenin, i.e., as being "the more cautious, the more systematic plan, which approached the question of unity by means of a preliminary 'exchange of opinion'."

Litvinov was followed by Chkheidze, who made the customary liquidationist attacks on the Bolsheviks. In reply to this, Litvinov moved that the Liquidationist Organisation Committee, which was set up at the liquidationist conference in August 1912, not be given representation on the ISB, as it not only did not represent any party but did not even represent the Trotskyan, liquidationist August bloc which it had created, since that bloc had collapsed. The ISB rejected Litvinov's proposal and gave a seat on the Bureau to a representative of the Organisation Committee. It also adopted Kautsky's resolution. The resolution began by recalling the decision of the Amsterdam Congress of the Second International on Party unity, went on to refer to the "harmful and deplorable state" of Party affairs in Russia, and finally offered the services of the ISB in investigating the internal Party struggle in Russia and in healing the split. The ISB instructed its Executive Committee to confer with all the "factions

in the labour movement in Russia" which recognised the programme of the RSDLP and also with those whose programme was in accord with the programme of Social Democracy. The ISB declared that it refused to discuss the past mistakes of individual trends and was concerned only about the present and future of the RSDLP.

On the basis of this decision, in July 1914 the ISB convened a 'unity conference' in Brussels of all socialist trends and national Social Democratic organisations in Russia. The Central Committee of the Bolshevik Party was also represented at this conference. Abstaining from criticising the 'past of individual groups on the grounds that this would be 'harmful and fruitless,' the conference in its resolution denied that any differences existed that could justify 'the split being continued,' and spoke in very definite terms about the need for unity and for convening 'a general congress for the purpose of settling all controversial questions concerning the programme.' This resolution was also drafted by Kautsky. The representatives of the Bolshevik Central Committee and of the Lettish Social Democrats abstained from voting on this resolution. Obviously it was an attempt to combat Bolshevism by 'uniting' it with the opportunists and dissolving the revolutionary party of the proletariat in a petty bourgeois reformist party under centrist leadership of the type that the leadership of the German Social Democratic Party represented at that period. The role played by Rosa Luxemburg in this attempt showed to what extent the Lefts in the Second International, on the very eve of the war and the collapse of that International, were infected with 'the cursed traditions of unity' with opportunism, and how remote they were from the genuinely revolutionary understanding of proletarian Party unity as unity based upon irreconcilable struggle against opportunism.

PAGE 209 \*\* The "Tyazko circle" was the leading group of the Executive Committee of the Social Democratic Party of Poland and Lithuania, consisting of Tyazko, Rosa Luxemburg, Warski, and others. In the years of the reaction, and later during the revival of the revolutionary movement, this group opposed the alleged "splitting" policy of the Bolshevik Leninists and advocated a compromise between and unification of all the trends and factions in the Russian Social Democratic movement. During the whole of this period the "Tyazko circle" had no independent policy of its own in the internal struggle in the RSDLP but wavered between the liquidators and the Bolsheviks, and kept protesting against the 'chaos' of factional struggle and against the alleged "artificial instigation" of this struggle by the 'Leninist group,' as they called the Bolsheviks. In 1911 Tyazko, jointly with the Bolshevik conciliators, associated himself with the campaign initiated by the Bolsheviks for convening a Party conference, but later on he abandoned them, and, instead of taking part in the Prague Conference, attended the conference convened by the liquidators in January 1912 (see

note to page 164 \*) to discuss the convening of an anti Party liquidationist conference. But he withdrew from this conference too on the grounds that the liquidators predominated in it. In August 1912, the Executive Committee of the Social Democratic Party of Poland and Lithuania which was controlled by the "Tyszko circle," convened a regional conference of the Polish Social Democrats and secured the adoption of a resolution which condemned the "splitting policy" of the Bolsheviks, but said nothing about their attitude towards the liquidationist group that was expelled from the Party by the Prague Conference in 1912. In 1913 the Tyszko circle through the medium of Rosa Luxemburg proposed to the International Socialist Bureau that it investigate the question of restoring unity in Russia and the "splitting" policy of the Leninist group" (See preceding note.)

The Tyszko opportunist policy of the Executive Committee of the Social Democratic Party of Poland and Lithuania on questions affecting the Russian Social Democratic movement culminated in its withdrawal from the RSDLP. But its wavering on a number of important questions affecting the Polish Social Democratic movement (trade union question, the question of the attitude towards the Polish Socialist Party, the questions of internal Party policy, etc.) called forth an emphatic protest and opposition on the part of a number of the oldest and largest organisations in the Polish Social Democratic Party, such as Warsaw, Lodz, and others. The struggle between the opposition, which was known as the "*rozłamowcy* section," and the Tyszko Executive Committee, which accused the Warsaw organisation of being a provocateur organisation and declared it to be dissolved, resulted in a split, the opposition broke away from the Party, set up its own regional centre and took steps towards uniting with the Bolsheviks. The split greatly weakened the influence of the Tyszko Executive Committee and to a very large extent made it impossible for it to continue its former policy on questions concerning the Russian Social Democratic labour movement. The split was only healed in 1916 in connection with the imperialist war, which made it necessary for all the internationalist elements in the Polish and international labour movement to draw closer together.

PAGE 213 \* The resolution to which Lenin refers was published in *Proletarskaya Pravda* over the signature of "A Group of Organized Marxists," and was the reply of the Bolshevik Party to the decision of the International Socialist Bureau, which Lenin discusses in this and in the preceding article. The resolution defined the conditions for the "restoration of unity" with the liquidators. It declared that unity was possible only on the condition that the liquidators unreservedly recognise the "underground," i.e., the illegal party, that they recognise that the decisions of the illegal party were binding upon them, that they recognise "the three main demands advanced by the working class in Russia," i.e. a democratic republic confederation of the land and an eight hour day, that they cease "degrading the tasks of the working class" for the sake of entering into a *bloc* with the Cadets, that the Duma fraction unreservedly submit to the "organised will of the Marxist whole,"

*i.e.*, the instructions of the illegal party, etc. The sum and substance of all these conditions was that unity was possible only on the condition that the liquidators ceased to be liquidators.

PAGE 219 \* This letter was written in 1909, but was first published in 1924, in the magazine *Proletarskaya Revolyutsiya*. It deals with the question of the two paths of development of agriculture in Russia that is dealt with in Lenin's work, *The Agrarian Programme of Social Democracy in the First Russian Revolution, 1905-07*, chap I (see Vol III of *Selected Works*), but it deals with it in a new way, corresponding to the changed circumstances. The autocracy was taking further steps towards a bourgeois monarchy (See Lenin's "Draft Resolution on the Present Situation and the Tasks of the Party," in this volume.) This found most striking expression in the agrarian legislation introduced by Stolypin, the object of which was to break up the village communes and to strengthen the kulaks, *i.e.*, the rural bourgeoisie. The Stolypin agrarian reform undoubtedly facilitated the development of capitalism in the rural districts, and this development proceeded faster than it had ever done before. This was revealed particularly in the increase in the employment of wage labour on the landlord farms, *i.e.*, in the increasing transformation of the semi-feudal landlord farms into capitalist farms. This meant the slow elimination of the survivals of feudalism by means of the equally slow penetration of capitalism into the rural districts with the aid of reforms introduced by the landlord autocracy in alliance with the bourgeoisie. This was the path of development of capitalism in agriculture which Lenin had described as the "Prussian path." Hence, the question arose as to whether Russia had not already completely entered the Prussian path, and whether the "American path," which presupposed the revolutionary solution of the agrarian peasant problem by means of the decisive victory of the bourgeois democratic revolution and the nationalisation of the land, was not now out of the question. Lenin's letter shows that Skvortsov-Stepanov wavered on this question and inclined to the opinion that Russia had already completely taken the "Prussian path," that the break up of the village communes, the consolidation of the kulaks and the growth of class differentiation among the peasantry were sweeping away the last remnants of feudalism in the rural districts and that the semi-feudal landlord and the antagonisms between the whole of the peasantry as a class-estate and the landlords were disappearing. From this he drew the conclusion that "the classical presentation of the fundamental theoretical question," *i.e.*, the question of the alliance between the proletariat and the whole of the peasantry in the struggle against the landlords and tsarism, and the question of the revolutionary-democratic dictatorship of the proletariat and peasantry, was now obsolete. Moreover, from a letter that Lenin wrote to Maxim Gorky, we learn that Skvortsov-Stepanov, on the basis of his views concerning the state of development of capitalism in agriculture, wrote "We can say 'finish' to the democratic revolution; things in Russia will now proceed in the English way, without a revolution."

In his reply to Skvortsov Stepanov as well as in all the articles he wrote in the period of reaction and of the revival of the revolutionary movement, Lenin took the opposite point of view. He was of the opinion that the new steps which the tsarist autocracy was taking towards a bourgeois monarchy did not remove the question of overthrowing the tsarist autocracy from the order of the day because it continued to remain a landlord autocracy. Similarly, on the central question of the bourgeois democratic revolution, viz the agrarian peasant question, the new steps taken by the autocracy along the "Prussian path" did not remove the question of the agrarian peasant revolution against the landlords from the order of the day, since, in the main, the remnants of feudalism were left intact. Hence, the slogan of an alliance between the proletariat and the whole of the peasantry and the revolutionary democratic dictatorship of the proletariat and peasantry still remained in force.

The question of the two paths of solving the agrarian peasant problem was as important in the period of reaction as it was in the period of 1905-07, because this was a question of the fate of the bourgeois-democratic revolution in Russia, and the wavering of certain Bolsheviks on this question represented a serious danger. Although Skvortsov Stepanov wavered on this question, he did not depart from Bolshevism. Other waverers, however, took one of the following two paths: either they prematurely abandoned the slogan of the bourgeois-democratic revolution and equally prematurely raised the question of the immediate transition to the proletarian revolution—which was a 'Left' deviation, or they abandoned the slogan of the bourgeois-democratic revolution and deserted to the camp of the liquidators. The latter fate befell the historian, Rozhkov who had worked in the ranks of the Bolsheviks right up to and including 1907 and then slipped into liquidationism (see Lenin's article "The Agrarian Question and the Present State of Russia," in this volume) and wrote articles for the liquidationist press of such a nature that Lenin dubbed them "The Manifesto of the Liberal Labour Party." The Menshevik liquidators of all shades, including the Trotskyists, were of the opinion that the decisive turn in the direction of the abolition of the remnants of feudalism in the rural districts had already taken place, and that, in the main, landlord economy had been transformed into capitalist economy. This estimation of the situation in agriculture served them as proof of the necessity of abandoning revolutionary slogans, and, consequently, the revolutionary illegal party of the proletariat, and of putting in its place what Lenin called a "Stolypin, liberal labour party."

PAGE 220 \* V Ilyin was the *nom de plume* which Lenin used in his writings in the legal press under tsarism. It was under this *nom de plume* that he, in 1889, published his book, *The Development of Capitalism in Russia*, parts of which are given in Vol I of *Selected Works*. In this book, Lenin, with the aid of a vast amount of statistical material, proves that the Russian rural districts had been drawn into the commodity producing system and

that Russian agriculture—both landlord and peasant farming—had irreversibly taken the commodity, capitalist path. He also shows how the class differentiation, i.e., the growth of two antagonistic classes, the bourgeoisie and the proletariat was taking place in the Russian countryside. In his preface to the second edition of this work, written in July 1907, Lenin on the basis of his experience of the Revolution of 1905-07, definitely formulated the question of the two capitalist paths of development that were possible in Russia. On the economic basis described in the book two main lines of development were objectively possible. "Either the old landlord economy, which was bound by a thousand threads with feudalism, will be preserved and will slowly be transformed into purely capitalist, *Junker* economy or the old landlord economy will be broken up by revolution which will destroy all the survivals of feudalism, and primarily large land ownership."

PAGE 220 \*\* This refers to an article written by Martynov entitled 'The Driving Forces of the Russian Revolution,' in which he attacks the Bolshevik slogan of a revolutionary democratic dictatorship of the proletariat and peasantry. Martynov's article was published in the Menshevik journal *Golos Sotsial Demokrata* of March 1909.

PAGE 220 \*\*\* This refers to the works of Plekhanov written in opposition to the Narodniki as for example "Our Differences," "The Principles of Narodism, as Enunciated in the Works of Mr. Vorontsov (V. V.)," etc., and it also refers to Lenin's own works, such as *The Development of Capitalism in Russia* (see *Selected Works*, Vol. I), and other works which were also written in opposition to the Narodniki.

PAGE 222 \* Lenin here quotes from an article by the Menshevik, P. Maslov entitled "The Development of National Economy and its Influence on the Class Struggles in the Nineteenth Century," published in a Menshevik symposium entitled *The Social Movement in Russia At the Beginning of the Twentieth Century* which deals with the Revolution of 1905-07. (See note to page 58 \*).

PAGE 223 \* The counter-revolutionary character of the Third Duma which was elected on the basis of the electoral law of June 3, 1907, was clearly demonstrated during the debate on the Inviolability of the Person Bill, November 30 to December 3 [November 17-20] 1909. This is what Lenin refers to. This Bill which was alleged to guarantee the inviolability of the person, really proposed to give the authorities complete power over the lives of citizens, without even the pretence of a trial, whenever the authorities considered this necessary. Zamiatovsky, the reactionary deputy who introduced the Bill in the Duma, actually said in his speech: "The Inviolability of the Person Bill is to operate in those regions of the state which are in a state of calm. On the other hand, if certain regions of the state are in a state of excitement, the existence of such a state of excitement in those regions

creates grounds for applying the Inviolability of the Person Bill, with such exceptions as are provided for in other laws known as the Military Law and the Exceptional Law" He then went on to explain that by a 'state of excitement' he meant military operations and preparations for such, riots and "preparations for disorders—sedition and unrest"

PAGE 223 \*\* This refers to an article by Lenin, entitled "The Agrarian Programme of Russian Social Democracy in the Russian Revolution" which he wrote at the request of the Polish Social Democrats (Rosa Luxemburg and others) for the Polish Social Democratic press This article was a condensed outline of his book *The Agrarian Programme of Russian Social Democracy in the First Russian Revolution, 1905-07*, several chapters of which are given in Vol III of *Selected Works*, in which the quotations from Marx's *Theories of Surplus Value* will also be found

PAGE 224 \* Evidently this refers to the discussion on the agrarian question in the German Social Democratic Party initiated in the nineties of the last century by the revisionists led by David The controversy centred around the question of the possible paths of development of agriculture At the congress of the German Social Democratic Party, in 1885, the revisionists submitted an agrarian programme which contained proposals for a number of measures to support and strengthen small peasant property under capitalism This programme was rejected by a majority vote In Germany the Prussian path of development of capitalism had already triumphed, and Junker economy had already become transformed into large scale capitalist entrepreneur economy, the whole of the agrarian system had already become capitalistic Under such circumstances, support for petty peasant economy would have roused false hopes among the peasantry of the possibility of an improvement of their conditions under capitalism, and would have served to strengthen their small proprietor strivings Under the conditions of developed capitalism in agriculture the agrarian peasant problem can be solved only by the victory of the proletarian revolution and the establishment of the dictatorship of the proletariat

PAGE 224,\*\* Lenin refers to the following passage in a book written by the Menshevik, Cherevanin, entitled *The Present Situation and the Possible Future* (Moscow, 1908) "It is obvious that the proletariat could achieve important gains in the revolution only with the aid of the peasantry This was fully appreciated by Social Democracy—so much so indeed, that a section of it displayed even greater opportunism than the Bernsteinists and the South German Social Democrats However, these opportunists were not the Mensheviks, whom the Cadets and Bernsteinists, deceived by the cries of the Bolsheviks, were prepared to number in their own ranks, but the irreconcilable Bolsheviks who, in the person of Orlovsky, subscribed to an absolutely reactionary proposal for the equal distribution of the land" For the attitude of Lenin and the Bolsheviks towards the question of the



distribution of the land, see *The Agrarian Programme of Social Democracy in the First Russian Revolution, 1905-07*, chap II, section 8, pp 229-35, in Vol III of *Selected Works*

PAGE 226 \* This is a draft of a speech written by Lenin for Shagov, a member of the Bolshevik fraction of the Fourth Duma. Shagov delivered this speech, with only slight variations, in the Duma on June 22 [9], 1913, during the debate on the Estimates of the Department for State Landed Property. Lenin's draft dealt exhaustively with the agrarian policy of the tsarist government after the Revolution of 1905-07 and he proved with facts and figures that for the seven years in which the Stolypin policy had been in operation it had not only failed to solve the agrarian problem, but had even caused it to become more acute. Notwithstanding the fact that this policy had given an enormous impetus to the bourgeois development of the rural districts it had failed to abolish serfdom and serf bondage. The need for the revolutionary abolition of these evils still remained. This document is so valuable because it indicates the manner in which Lenin guided the work of the Bolshevik fraction in the Duma. The exceptionally clear and popular form in which Lenin enunciates his views in this draft speech shows that it was intended, not for the members of the Duma, so much as for the broad masses of the workers and peasants outside of the Duma. The speech serves as a model of how even the most counter-revolutionary institution, such as the Duma was at that time, should be utilised.

PAGE 226 \*\* Before the Revolution of 1905, the autocracy came out as the champion of the village commune and of the inalienability of the peasant allotments, not in the interests of the peasant, of course, but in order to keep the peasantry tied to the land and to guarantee opportunities for the land lords to exploit peasant labour in the form of wage labour as well as in the form of serf labour, such as labour in payment for the lease of land, share cropping, etc. Tying the peasants to the village commune and to their allotments was a means of enslaving the peasants to the landlord. The degree to which the peasants were tied down to their allotments and the village commune is indicated by the law of December 27 [14], 1893, which prohibited the peasant from selling his allotment without the special permission of the village commune, which could be given by a vote of not less than two-thirds of the peasants eligible to vote. When the price of the allotment the owner desired to sell exceeded 500 rubles, the permission of the Minister of the Interior was required, in addition to that of the village commune. In a manifesto issued on March 11 [February 25], 1903, almost on the eve of the 1905 Revolution, the government once again emphasised the inalienability of the village commune system, and in an ukase promulgated on January 21 [6], 1904, on the eve of the 1905 Revolution, the tsar declared that it was necessary "to preserve the estate system for the peasants and the inalienability of peasant ownership of allotment land."

PAGE 226 \*\*\* The Council of the United Nobility was formed at a congress of the nobility held in May 1906. It was an organisation of feudal landlords, the object of which was to combat revolution. The idea of forming an organisation of this kind occurred to the nobility of Saratov as early as February 1905, and in September of that year a gathering of the nobility of Saratov was held, at which the All Russian Union of Landowners of All Estates and Conditions was formed. The landed aristocracy adopted this title for their organisation in order to conceal its true class character, but this was revealed by the programme which it adopted. Thus, on the question of the land it definitely stated that landlord property must remain "undisturbed and inviolable" that the peasants could satisfy their land hunger only by the voluntary purchase of land, and that there must be no talk about the compulsory alienation of the land.

In December 1905, the inaugural congress of the landlords was held, at which the discontent of the landed aristocracy with the policy of the government was rather strongly expressed. The government was reproached for not sufficiently protecting the inalienability of the landlords' property and for "giving protection to liberties." The landlords even thought that the government was too lenient in suppressing the revolution, although the brutality of the government during this period was notorious. It was this alleged "leniency" that the landlords described as "giving protection to liberties," and they called upon the government to be more firm in combating revolution. At their next congress, held in February 1906, the counter revolutionary landlords were more satisfied with the efforts of the government in suppressing the revolution, and a vote of thanks was passed to General Dubasov, who had suppressed the armed uprising in Moscow, and to a number of others who had distinguished themselves by their brutality in suppressing the revolution. On the agrarian question the congress passed a resolution calling upon the government to compensate the landlords for the losses they had suffered as a result of the revolutionary movement of the peasantry. On May 5 [April 22], 1906, a congress of the "Circle of the Nobility," consisting of the most important representatives of the nobility was held, which decided to convene a national congress of the nobility. This was held in May 1906, when a permanent body known as the Council of the United Nobility was formed. The subsequent activities of the counter revolutionary landlords were carried on under the guidance of this body. The programme and policy of this Council determined the policy of the government. For example, the Second Congress of the Nobility, held in November 1906, expressed to the government its dissatisfaction with the manner in which the Duma was elected and declared that under the prevailing system "the property element was submerged by the proletarian element during elections," and that, as a result the landed aristocracy could not play the role they desired to play. The government was therefore called upon "firmly to declare that Russia is a land of property" and that there was "no place" in this Russia for a proletarian tendency. The new electoral law passed on June

16 [3], 1907, on the basis of which the Third Duma was elected answered to the requirements of the nobility. In the sphere of agrarian policy the tsarist government was guided entirely by the class interests of the landlords represented by the Council of the United Nobility.

PAGE 227 \* According to the calculations of the Minister of the Interior, the damage suffered by the landlords from the revolutionary movement of the peasantry in twenty gubernias amounted to over 31 000 000 rubles. In their struggle against the landlords the peasants adopted various forms of fighting, such as wrecking manor houses, incendiarism, felling the land lords trees, turning their cattle into the landlords fields, etc. Thus, in the Saratov Gubernia, 272 manor houses were wrecked, in the Tambov Gubernia 130, in the Orel Gubernia, 84, in the Penza Gubernia, 30, in the Kursk Gubernia, 127, in the Ukraine, over 200 and in the Baltic provinces, 260

PAGE 238 \* Lenin here refers to the law of June 27 [14], 1910, which confirmed the ukase of November 22 [9], 1906, granting the peasants the right to leave the village commune and transforming the commune land into the private property of the peasant occupier. It also more definitely formulated the main points of this ukase. Thus, on the transforming of commune property into private property this ukase stated: "In those communes in which there has not been a general redistribution of the land for twenty four years preceding the declaration by individual householders of their desire to transfer from community ownership to personal ownership, every such householder shall secure as his private property, in addition to his home allotment, all the allotments of commune land of which he has been the permanent occupier (not tenant)." The law of June 27 [14], 1910, formulates this point in the following way: "Communities and villages having separate possessions, and in which there has been no redistribution of the land since their lands were allotted to them, shall be deemed to have transferred to hereditary (sectional or household) possession." And then it goes on to say that the peasants acquire the right of personal property over these lands. Thus, under this law no declarations on the part of individual persons of their desire to obtain their land as private property were required. Willy nilly, the commune land was declared by law to be the private property of the occupier, if there had not been any periodical redistribution. This law also made it easier for those desiring to do so to leave the commune even if periodical redistribution of the land had taken place. Every householder was given the right, at any time he wished to do so, to make a declaration of his desire to leave the commune and if the commune did not discuss this declaration within thirty days, the case was transferred to the Zemsky Nachalnik or Rural Prefect, who was empowered to decide the case at his own discretion. The law of June 27 [14] contained the clause to which Lenin refers, which for a period, until the law was revised, prohibited the concentration in the hands of a single person, in an uyezd or gubernia, by purchase or gift, of more than six allotments, in the Bessarabia Gubernia

of more than two allotments and in the southwestern gubernias of more than three allotments

PAGE 238 \*\* Although the revolutionary movement among the peasantry began rapidly to subside in 1907, the class struggle in the rural districts did not subside, on the contrary it assumed the acute form to which Lenin refers. The Stolypin agrarian policy did not remove class antagonisms, it intensified them. In addition to the antagonism between the peasantry as a whole and the landlords, the antagonisms among the peasantry itself assumed more and more acute form, as, for example, the antagonisms between the poor peasants and the kulaks, or capitalist farmers, who enjoyed all the advantages of the Stolypin policy.

PAGE 242 \* In this article, published in *Pravda*, No 36, of November 28 [15], 1913, Lenin develops the same ideas about the Stolypin agrarian policy and the prospects of the revolution as he enunciated in the two preceding articles. He criticises the point of view of the Cadets represented by Polferov, and that of the liquidators, represented by Rozhkov, and shows that the latter were pursuing the same line as the Cadets who had become absolutely counterrevolutionary. Both the Cadets and the liquidators were of the opinion that all thought of revolution had to be abandoned because the force against which the revolution had to contend had disappeared, and that the feudal landlord class had been reduced to a handful of individual units like the Purishkeviches, Markovs and Co. Referring to this in another article, entitled "From the Camp of the Stolypin 'Labour Party,'" which also deals with the liquidationist position of Rozhkov, Lenin wrote "On the question of the role of the landlord class, Rozhkov talks utter nonsense. Recently he says the representatives of this class 'were' genuine feudal landlords, now, however, 'they represent a small handful which still groups itself around Purishkevich and Markov II, and impotently' (1) 'splutters with spittle poisoned with the venom of despair.' The majority of the landed aristocracy are 'gradually but steadily degenerating into an agricultural bourgeoisie.' As a matter of fact, as everyone knows, the Markovs and the Purishkeviches are omnipotent in the Duma, still more so in the State Council, still more so in the Black Hundred tsarist gang and still more so in the government of Russia."

PAGE 244 \* The Party of Order was a counterrevolutionary organisation of the monarchist bourgeoisie formed in France at the time of the Revolution of 1848. The slogan of this party was "protection of property, the family and religion." It was supported by that section of the French peasantry which supported Napoleon III at the time of his election as president of the French Republic, and later, when he proclaimed himself Emperor of France. Concerning this section of the peasantry which at that time represented the majority of the peasantry, Marx wrote "But let there be no misunderstanding, The Bonaparte dynasty represents not the revolutionary, but the conservative peasant, not the peasant that strikes out beyond the condition

of his social existence the small holding but rather the peasant who wants to consolidate it, not the country folk who want to overthrow the old order through their own energies linked up with the towns, but on the contrary those who, in stupefied bondage to this old order, want to see themselves with their small holdings saved and favoured by the ghost of the Empire. It represents not the enlightenment, but the superstition of the peasant, not his judgment but his prejudice, not his future but his past, not his modern Cevennes but his modern Vendée (See Marx *The Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis Bonaparte* p 110)

PAGE 245 \* Lenin here refers to the struggle Marx and Engels waged against the German Socialist, Schweitzer, the successor to Lassalle, who like Lassalle, took up an opportunist attitude towards Prussian rule and towards the policy pursued by the head of the Prussian government, Bismarck. The principal question of the day for Germany at the time (1860-70) was the question of *national unification*. At that time Germany consisted of a number of states and principalities only loosely bound to each other politically, and this hindered the capitalist development of the country. The question of *national unification* stood in the forefront of affairs in Germany just as the *agrarian question* stood in the forefront of affairs in pre-revolutionary Russia. And just as in Russia the question of the paths, the forms and the forces of the solution of the agrarian problem was in the forefront, so in Germany, the question of the *paths and means* of solving the problem of national unification stood in the forefront. The question was should national unification be brought about by revolutionary means, by creating a single centralised German republic on the basis of complete democracy, or should the unification be brought about by the Prussian *Junker* monarchy, which represented the strongest military force in Germany? If unification were brought about in the second way, the position of the Prussian monarchy would become still stronger. Lassalle, and Schweitzer after him, on the grounds that the bourgeoisie of Germany was powerless to solve the problem of national unification, was of the opinion that the only alternative was either a "revolution from below," i.e. winning a German republic with the aid of proletarian fists, or a "revolution from above," i.e. unity brought about by the monarchist government of Bismarck with the aid of Prussian bayonets. Seeing no prospects for a "revolution from below," they drew the conclusion that it was necessary to support the policy of Bismarck, which was to unite Germany with the aid of bayonets and under the hegemony of the Prussian monarchy; and Lassalle not only indirectly supported Bismarck on the question of the unification of Germany as well as in his struggle to protect the interests of the *Junkers* against the liberal bourgeoisie, but also, as it turned out subsequently, entered into a secret pact with him. After Lassalle's death, this policy was pursued by his successor, Schweitzer, who in the press publicly praised Bismarck and his policy. Like Lassalle, Schweitzer counted on obtaining from Bismarck, in return for the

support he gave him, universal suffrage and state support for the workers' producing associations which, according to Lassalle's opportunist theories, were to pave the way to socialism

The other wing of the German Socialists of that day, led by Bebel, Liebknecht and others, and called the Eisenachers, waged a determined struggle against Schweitzer's "royal Prussian socialism" They exposed the policy of the Prussian autocracy and were of the opinion that national unification should be brought about by a "revolution from below" and the convocation of a constituent assembly consisting of representatives of all the German states on the basis of complete equality and a completely democratic political system Liebknecht, Bebel and the other Eisenachers were *opposed* to the disunity of Germany and were in *favour* of unification, but they were *opposed* to the *monarchy* and *Bismarck*, and were in *favour* of a *republic*

Marx and Engels were strongly opposed to the policy of Lassalle and Schweitzer and pointed out that, having entered into a secret pact with Bismarck, they were glossing over the class nature of the government's policy which was to protect the interests of the big landowners, they also pointed to the irreconcilable class antagonisms that existed between the *Junker* government and the proletariat Marx said that any assistance rendered by the Prussian monarchy to the proletariat, which Lassalle and Schweitzer were striving after, could do nothing but harm In a letter to Schweitzer in 1865 Marx wrote "As the bourgeois party in Prussia discredited itself and brought about its present wretchedness largely by seriously believing that with the 'new era' the government had fallen into its lap by the grace of the Prince Regent, so will the workers' party discredit itself far more if it imagines that the golden apples will drop into its mouth by the grace of the King through the Bismarck era, or through any other Prussian era It is beyond all doubt that disillusionment with Lassalle's unfortunate illusion of socialist intervention by a Prussian government will follow The logic of things will speak But the *honour* of the workers' party requires that it reject such mirages even before their hollowness is burst open by experience The working class is revolutionary or it is nothing" (*The Correspondence of Marx and Engels*, quoted in Marx's letter to Engels, No 80, February 18, 1865)

For Lenin's appraisal of the position of the Lassalleans and Eisenachers, see note to page 37 \*\* in this volume The similarity in the positions of Lassalle Schweitzer and the Russian liquidators is complete Like Lassalle and Schweitzer, the Menshevik liquidators glossed over the class nature of tsarism and its policy they glossed over the fact that the Black Hundred Purishkevich, Markov and Co were the representatives of feudalism in the countryside, which was far from having been abolished and which still had to be abolished by means of revolution

PAGE 245 \*\* In his speech in the Duma on November 5 [October 23], 1913, the Menshevik, Tulyakov, enumerated cases of police interference at workers' meetings, the break up of meetings by the police, the prohibition

of the arrangement of lectures for workers, etc. He concluded his speech with the purely Cadet slogan, 'freedom of coalition,' without the overthrow of tsarism. This Menshevik said "Our slogan, 'freedom of coalition,' of which the struggle for the right of assembly is part, is our fighting slogan." The Bolshevik, Badayev, spoke at this session of the Duma and, enumerating cases illustrating the political disfranchisement of the workers, he declared that "the workers are not afraid to fight. Their meetings are closed down, their legal organisations are broken up, challenges are thrown down to them, but they will take up these challenges and will give you another 1905. We believe in this movement, we believe that it will grow and expand, and that the working class will obtain its rights. We believe in this future and are boldly facing it. We believe that we, too, will celebrate our victory. Soon in our country also this rotten system will collapse, together with this reactionary landlord Duma." The Menshevik, Tulyakov mumbled something about the Mensheviks' fighting slogan being "freedom of coalition." The Bolshevik, Badayev, declared in the name of the working class that their slogan was—struggle for the overthrow of the whole of the "rotten system"; and he boldly hurled in the face of the landlords and bourgeoisie in the Duma the challenge that the workers would show them "another 1905."

PAGE 249 \* This article published in the journal *Prosveshchentye* (*Enlightenment*), Nos. 4 and 6, 1914, is one of the articles Lenin wrote in the course of the discussion on the national question in 1913-14. In 1912 a conference of the Menshevik Caucasian Regional League passed a resolution in favour of "cultural national autonomy." This started a discussion on the national question. The liquidationist conference, which took place under Trotsky's leadership in August 1912 (see note to page 180 \*), passed a resolution declaring that the interpretation given by the Caucasian Mensheviks "of the point of the Party programme which recognises the right of every nationality to self-determination does not run counter to the precise meaning of that point." This was followed by articles, in the Menshevik and Bundist press advocating "cultural national autonomy" and criticising the Party programme on the national question, which demanded the right of nations to self-determination.

Lenin's first reply to the liquidators' attack on the Party programme on the national question was contained in his "Critical Remarks on the National Question," which was first published in the legal Bolshevik journal *Prosveshchentye* October-December 1913, in which he directed his arguments against the demand for "cultural national autonomy." At about the same time he published a short popular article in *Pravda*, entitled "Cultural National Autonomy," in which he very precisely defined what was meant by the "plan or programme" of "cultural national autonomy," which, as he said, had been adopted by "all the Jewish bourgeois parties, and then (in 1907) by a conference of petty bourgeois Left Narodnik parties of various nations, and finally by the petty bourgeois opportunist elements of near Marxist groups, i.e., the Bundists and liquidators." The substance of the "plan or programme" was to divide schools according to nationalities. "The

more frequently all these avowed and tacit nationalists (including the Bundists) strive to gloss over the fact that this is the sum and substance" (of the "plan or programme"—*Ed*), said Lenin, "the more we must insist on it. Every nation, irrespective of where any person belonging to it resides (irrespective of territory hence the term 'extra territorial' autonomy), represents a single state recognised union, carrying on national cultural work. The principal part of this work is education. The determination of the composition of a nation by the voluntary registration of every citizen in any national union, irrespective of his place of residence, secures absolute precision and absolute consistency in the division of schools according to nationality." This is what the demand for cultural national autonomy means, and Lenin was of the opinion that it was 'absolutely impermissible,' either from the point of view of a consistent democrat or, in particular, from the point of view of the "interests of the proletarian class struggle." "If economics unites the nations living in a single state, then the attempt to separate them once and for all in the sphere of educational questions is absurd and reactionary." Cultural national autonomy is still more antagonistic to the international unity of the proletariat in the struggle against the bourgeoisie, because it does not serve to unite the workers but to disunite them as a class, and to unite them with their respective national bourgeoisies. It serves to subordinate them to the interests of this bourgeoisie, to its "national," i.e. bourgeois, culture. "The workers *can* be disunited and weakened by the advocacy of such an idea," and the "proletariat, which realises and treasures its internationalism, will never agree to this absurdity of refined nationalism."

But, as in all other questions of programme and tactics, Lenin, in this period, not only fought for the national programme of the Party against the Menshevik liquidators on the Right, but also against Rosa Luxemburg and the Left Polish and German Social Democrats who attacked the slogan of the right of nations to self-determination. As Comrade Stalin said "They developed a semi-Menshevik theory of imperialism, rejected the principle of the self-determination of nations in its Marxist sense (including separation and formation of independent states), rejected the thesis of the important revolutionary significance of the liberation movement of the colonies and oppressed countries, rejected the theory of the possibility of a united front between the proletarian movement and the movement for national emancipation and put all this semi-Menshevik hodge-podge, representing an out and out underestimation of the national and colonial question, in opposition to the Marxist scheme of the Bolsheviks. It is well known that this semi-Menshevik hodge-podge was later taken up by Trotsky and used by him as a weapon of struggle against Leninism." (Stalin, *Leninism*, Vol II, "Questions Concerning the History of Bolshevism," p. 898.) On the other hand, this position was taken up by the "extreme Left" Bolsheviks, the Bukharin-Pyatakoff group, who also opposed Lenin's line on the national question. In all his pronouncements both in the pre-war as well as in the post-war periods, Lenin strongly repelled all these "Left" attacks on the Bolshevik



position on the national question and on national colonial questions, no less than he repelled the opportunists on the Right. In the present article which was written before the war as well as in a number of articles written in the period of the war, Lenin directed his arguments against Rosa Luxemburg and her adherents and, in passing, mentioned his previous criticism of "cultural national autonomy."

In addition to Lenin's pronouncements in the prewar Party press the Bolshevik Party declared its position on the national question in an official Party decision adopted at the conference of the Central Committee and Party workers held in October 1913 (See note to page 200 \*). This resolution declares that it is the *bounden* duty of the proletarian party to champion the right of the oppressed nations to self determination, including the right to secede and form an independent state, and it rejects the demand for "cultural national autonomy" as being '*absolutely* harmful.' At the same time the conference rejected a resolution moved by the adherents of the 'Left' Luxemburg point of view. Thus, the Bolsheviks very emphatically dissociated themselves from the advocates of "cultural national autonomy" as well as from the position of those who opposed the right of nations to self determination. The resolution adopted by the October conference of 1913 on the national question was drawn up by Lenin, and all the articles he wrote on the national question after the conference were written in defence of this resolution.

The ideas Lenin developed in the discussion of 1913 were the logical development of the position on the national question he held in the period of the Second Congress. Both at that time and in 1913 the fight for the Party programme on the national question was a fight for one of the fundamental democratic demands in the programme of the proletariat. But in the articles Lenin wrote in the latter period we find something that we do not find in those of 1902-03. In the later period Lenin points to manifestations in Russia of reactionary imperialist aspirations of the Russian liberal bourgeoisie in opposition to the national liberation of the nations inhabiting the Russian Empire. "Before 1905," wrote Lenin, "we knew almost exclusively national reactionaries. After the revolution national liberals arose in our country." In the above mentioned article, "Critical Remarks on the National Question," Lenin starts by pointing out that among other phenomena which in 1913 put the national question in the forefront was the fact that "counter revolutionary bourgeois liberalism has passed over to nationalism." This, of course, did not remove the slogan, the right of nations to self determination, from the order of the day. On the contrary, the manifestation of imperialist aspirations in the national question among the Russian bourgeoisie added still greater significance to this slogan. It became a demand directed not only against the autocracy, but also against the imperialist aspirations of the liberal bourgeoisie.

In the same way as the position of Lenin on the national question in 1913-14 was a development of his position in 1902-03, so the position of his

opponents was the development of the old mistakes committed by the Bund and the Polish Social Democrats at the Second Congress and in the period of the Second Congress "To forget this struggle," Lenin wrote in December 1913 "is tantamount to becoming an Ivan Nepomnyashchi [Ivan the Forgetful—*Ed* ], to cutting oneself off from the historical and the ideological basis of the Social Democratic labour movement of Russia" And he goes on to say 'now ten years after, the fight is proceeding along the same two main lines, which in turn also shows the profound connection that exists between this struggle and all the objective conditions of the national question in Russia' (*Collected Works*, Russian ed, Vol XVII, "The National Programme and the RSDLP") And the whole of the struggle against the 'Right' and the "Left," against the frank opportunism of the Menshevik liquidators and against the opportunism of the "Lefts," which was concealed by revolutionary phrases was only a part of the general struggle that the Bolsheviks waged at that time for the revolutionary programme and tactics of the Party The opportunist position of both the liquidators and the "Lefts" was part and parcel of the whole system of their opportunist views

PAGE 249 \*\* Point 9 of the programme of the Russian Marxists, *i.e.*, the programme of the RSDLP adopted at the Second Congress, contained the demand for "the right of all nations in the state to self-determination"

PAGE 252 \* In 1907-08, when the article "Nationality and Internationality" was written, Kautsky had not yet reached the stage of complete abandonment of Marxism, and although this article leaves many 'loopholes' and surrenders a number of positions to opportunism, it nevertheless explains the rise of single nation states from the "historical economic" point of view, as Lenin says On this, Kautsky based the demand for the right of nations to self-determination, which he renounced during the imperialist war, as he renounced all the principles of Marxism On the other hand, the Austrian Social Democrat, Otto Bauer, in conjunction with R Springer Renner (both are now leaders of Austrian social fascism), created an opportunist petty-bourgeois programme of "cultural national autonomy," which was first borrowed by the Bundists, and later by the Menshevik liquidators In Bauer's opinion, the national problem was to be solved by allowing the greatest possible freedom of development for "national culture and character" and for the national language With this end in view, it was necessary "for every nation in the community, for every region, and, finally, for the whole state to be constituted in the form of a public juridical corporation, the function of which would be to satisfy the cultural requirements of the nation, to build schools for it, libraries, theatres, museums and people's universities, and to grant legal assistance to its fellow countrymen whenever it is required" (Our italics.) Bauer and Springer based this programme of cultural national autonomy on the "psychological" theory of nations, to which Lenin refers, and which he compares with Kautsky's "historical economic" theory of 1908-09,

Marxists define a nation in the following way "A nation is a historically constituted, stable community of language, territory economic life and psychology, manifesting itself in community of culture" "None of the above characteristics taken separately is sufficient to define a nation Moreover the absence of even one of these characteristics is sufficient for the nation to cease to be a nation" (Stalin) The basis of this definition is the *material* conditions—a common territory a common economic life A common language arises on the basis of a common economic life, and without the latter a common language is impossible Out of all this arises a special mentality and a common culture

Bauer and Springer, however, defined nation *ideally* According to Bauer, a nation is the "sum total of persons bound together by a common character on the basis of a common destiny" This definition lacks the principal, the fundamental, *viz*, a common economic life and territory According to Bauer, the people of a nation are not bound together by the *material* conditions of their existence, but by *psychology*, by "character" Springer went even further He defined a nation as "the *cultural community* of a group of modern people, *not bound by territory*" and in another passage he declares simply "a nation is the community of thoughts and sentiments, hence, of purely internal life"

In substance, the programme of cultural national autonomy, which logically follows from the "psychological" theory of Otto Bauer and R. Springer, reduces itself to dividing up the schools and all other educational work in multiple nation states, according to nationality It is a profoundly opportunistic programme First of all it implies the *violent* retention of a nation in a given state because the secession of one of the nations from Austria, for example, would have meant "the disintegration of Austria," and this was utterly impermissible from the point of view of the authors of cultural national autonomy Secondly, this programme is *nationalistic* When the authors of the programme of cultural national autonomy try to answer the question of why the national problem must be solved according to their programme they say it is necessary in order to abolish national discord and to unleash the class struggle And when they are asked what does cultural national autonomy give to the workers, they reply they are brought into the 'cultural community' of their nation In bourgeois society this is nothing more nor less than being "brought into" the respective national bourgeoisie and becoming separated from the international proletariat

PAGE 259 \* Evidently Lenin has in view an article by E. Trubetskoy, a Constitutional Democrat, entitled 'New Zemstvo Russia,' published in No. 12 of *Russkaya Mysl* (*Russian Thought*), 1913 Referring to the agrarian programme of the Social Democrats in this article Trubetskoy wrote "In 1905, our Social Democrats were compelled 'for tactical reasons,' to adopt a demagogic agrarian programme which radically contradicted the fundamental principles of Marxism, because there was a demand for this sort of

goods on the market at that time, and without a programme of 'plunder' it would have been impossible to achieve success among the peasantry' (Our italics) The reference to the agrarian programme of the Social Democrats "contradicting the fundamental principles of Marxism" was a hint at the dissimilarity between the programmes of the Russian Social Democrats and that of the Social Democratic Parties in Western Europe

PAGE 260 \* The Balkan wars, to which Lenin refers here, occurred in 1912-13. There were three such wars. The first began on October 9, 1912, and was interrupted by the armistice declared on December 3, 1912. The second began on January 30, 1913, when the armistice in the above mentioned war was broken, and came to an end on May 14, 1913. The third war commenced on June 30, 1913 and ended on August 10, 1913. The first two wars were waged by the allied Balkan states, Bulgaria, Serbia, Greece and Montenegro, against Turkey. The last mentioned war was waged by Rumania, Greece and Serbia against Bulgaria. The first two wars represented an attempt on the part of the small Balkan states to take Macedonia from Turkey and to divide it among themselves. The subsequent war was a war for the division of the spoils after the defeat of Turkey. These wars undoubtedly contained the elements of a war for national liberation. The Balkan policy of the "great" European powers in the latter part of the nineteenth century had so confused the national relations in the Balkans that any number of pretexts for a struggle to "rectify frontiers" could have been found. Lenin, however, in one of his articles, warned against overestimating this element. He wrote "The bourgeois newspapers from *Novoye Vremya* to *Rech*, talk about the national liberation of the Balkans and leave in the shade economic liberation. And it is precisely the latter that is the important thing." Objectively, the task that confronted all the Balkan states was to secure the economic liberation of the peasantry in all these states from the rule of the landlords. This task was particularly acute in Macedonia, where the landlords were Turks, and the peasants were Slavs. The expulsion of the Turks from Macedonia, therefore, was a revolutionary task. In the article referred to above, Lenin wrote "The victory of the Serbs and the Bulgarians means the undermining of the rule of feudalism in Macedonia, it means the creation of a more or less free class of peasant landowners, it means that the whole of the social development of the Balkan countries which was retarded by absolutism and feudal relations is now assured."

The revolutions in Persia, Turkey and China, to which Lenin also refers in the present article, were bourgeois revolutions directed primarily against absolutism in those countries. But behind the backs of the reactionaries in Turkey, Persia and China, were Russia and the West European imperialist countries. Hence, objectively, the revolutionary struggle in those countries was a struggle for national liberation as well as a struggle against feudalism. For further details of these revolutions, see the first three articles in Part V, and the explanatory notes to them, in this volume.

PAGE 261 \* The 1860's in Germany was the period in which the disconnected small German states were united into one big state. Historical circumstances so developed that the task of national unification could be brought about in one of the following three ways: 1) by a national bourgeois democratic revolution, 2) by unification under the hegemony of Austria, and 3) by unification under the hegemony of Prussia. In that period circumstances were not favourable for a national revolution, and so the unification of Germany had to take place by one of the last two methods. The war of 1866, to which Lenin refers, was a war between Austria and Prussia to decide which of these was to secure the hegemony in the unification of Germany. Austria was the weaker of the two antagonists; she was quickly defeated and left the German federation. Germany was united under the hegemony of Prussia. For further details see notes to pages 37 \*\* and 245 \*

PAGE 262 \* The congress of the Social Democratic Party of Austria took place in Brünn (now Czechoslovakia), September 24-29, 1899. The principal item on the agenda was the national question. Two resolutions on this subject were submitted: one by the United Executive Committee of the Party, and the other by the Committee of the South Slav Social Democratic Party. The first resolution proposed what was called territorial autonomy, *i.e.*, home rule for all the national regions of Austria. The second resolution proposed "cultural national autonomy" as advocated by Otto Bauer. (See note to page 252 \*) Ultimately, a resolution was adopted which declared that Austria must be transformed into a "federal state of nationalities" in which 1) each national region was to have democratic home rule, and all the national regions were to unite in a single national union, each enjoying complete independence in all its national affairs; and 2) the rights of the national minorities were to be protected by a special law to be passed by the "imperial parliament." Thus, the demand for "cultural national autonomy" was not adopted at the Brünn Congress, but neither was the demand for the right of nations to self-determination, including the right to secede and form a separate state, adopted.

PAGE 267 \* Lenin here refers to an article by L. Vladimirov in No. 5 of *Za Partiyu* (*For the Party*), the organ of the Bolshevik conciliators and Plekhanovists, entitled "The Summer Conference of the Central Committee and Party Workers," in which the author criticises the resolution of the "Summer Conference" on the national question. The "Summer Conference" was the conference of the Bolsheviks held in October 1913. (See note to page 152 \*) For further details on the national question see notes to pages 249 \* and 273 \*

PAGE 269 \* Parts V and VI which deal with the two questions to which Lenin refers are omitted in this volume. The following is a brief outline of these two parts:

Part V is entitled "The Liberal Bourgeoisie and the Socialist Opportunists on the National Question" In it Lenin analyses in detail the position of the Russian bourgeoisie on the national question and shows that their position is utterly chauvinistic that in vindicating their class interests the Russian bourgeoisie did not recognise the right of nations to self determination, that they were waging a struggle not only against the Social Democrats on this question but also against the national bourgeoisie of the oppressed nations and that for the purposes of this struggle they had united with the feudal landlords and the landlord autocracy Under these circumstances, for the Social Democrats to renounce the demand for the right of nations to self determination would be tantamount to cringing before the Great Russian bourgeoisie, and in the last analysis would serve the interests of the reactionary landlords and of tsarism

Part VI is entitled "The Secession of Norway from Sweden" Rosa Luxemburg was of the opinion that the secession of Norway from Sweden, which took place in 1905, could not serve as an example to prove the correctness of the demand for the right of nations to self determination and that it was "merely a manifestation of peasant and petty bourgeois particularism, of a desire to have 'one's own' king for one's money, instead of a king imposed by the Swedish aristocracy, hence, it was a movement that had absolutely nothing in common with revolution" Lenin, on the contrary, argued that the separation of the two countries was a democratic act, because it abolished "the Swedish aristocratic yoke in Norway" In Lenin's opinion, the example of Norway "actually proves that it is the duty of the class conscious workers to carry on systematic propaganda and preparation for deciding the conflicts that arise over the secession of nations in the way they were decided in 1905 between Norway and Sweden and not 'in the Russian way'" The fact that a monarchy was established in Norway after her secession from Sweden was not in the interests of the proletariat The Norwegian proletariat should have fought against that and should have put forward the demand for a democratic republic this did not mean that they should have opposed secession. The Swedish workers were in favour of secession, and this served to strengthen the bond between them and the Norwegian workers

PAGE 273 \* Points 4 and 5 of the resolution on the national question adopted by the Summer Conference of the Central Committee of the R.S.D.L.P. and Party workers (see notes to pages 152,\* 200 \* and 249 \*) read as follows

"4) In regard to the right of the nations oppressed by the tsarist monarchy to self determination, i.e., the right to secede and form an independent state, the Social Democratic Party must certainly champion this right. This is demanded by the fundamental principles of international democracy in general, and, in particular, by the unprecedented national oppression of the majority of the inhabitants of Russia by the tsarist monarchy, which represents the most reactionary and barbarous state system compared with

the neighbouring states in Europe and Asia. It is also demanded by the cause of liberty of the Great Russian population itself, which will be incapable of creating a democratic state unless Black Hundred Great Russian nationalism—which is supported by the traditions of a number of bloody suppressions of national movements and is systematically fostered, not only by the tsarist monarchy and all the reactionary parties, but also by the cringing attitude of bourgeois liberalism towards the Great Russian monarchy particularly in the epoch of counter-revolution—is eliminated.

"5) The question of the right of nations to self-determination (i.e., the guarantee by the constitution of the state of an absolutely free and democratic method of deciding the question of secession) must not be confused with the question of the expediency of this or that nation seceding. The Social Democratic Party must decide the latter question in each separate case from the point of view of the interests of social development as a whole, and in the interests of the proletarian class struggle for socialism. The Social Democratic Party must bear in mind that the landlords, the priests and the bourgeoisie of the oppressed nations not infrequently use national slogans as a means of concealing their striving to disunite and to fool the workers, and to conclude agreements behind their backs with the landlords and the bourgeoisie of the ruling nation at the expense of the masses of the toilers of all nations."

PAGE 274 \* The date given by Lenin is a slip of the pen. It should be July 5 1870. Most of the letters of Marx and Engels that Lenin quotes here will be found in *The Correspondence of Marx and Engels* under the given dates.

PAGE 277 \* The end of the sixties of the last century was marked by an acute struggle between Ireland and England for Irish independence. The struggle in Ireland was led by the party known as the Fenians, which was formed in the beginning of the 'sixties and which was a semi-terrorist organisation of Irish petty bourgeois intellectuals. The British government tried to suppress the movement and in 1865 a number of the prominent Fenian leaders were arrested. The Fenians then commenced a struggle for the release of their leaders. On September 18, 1867, an attack was made on a prison van carrying arrested men. The assailants were arrested and several were executed. In retaliation the Fenians tried to blow up the Clerkenwell Prison, in London, where many Fenians were incarcerated. After a fierce struggle the movement was finally suppressed and by 1869 the leaders of the Fenian movement were either in prison or had emigrated. For a number of years after that there was a movement for the amnesty of the arrested Fenians. Demonstrations in favour of amnesty were organised in Ireland and in England, and on several occasions the question was raised in Parliament. Marx took an energetic part in this movement, and the resolution of the General Council of the First International, which Lenin quotes, indicates Marx's attitude towards this question. Cladstone, whose

conduct this resolution condemned, was Prime Minister at that time

In speaking of Gladstone's defence of the American slave owners, Marx refers to the visit of Gladstone, who was then Chancellor of the Exchequer, to America during the Civil War. As a liberal, Gladstone was welcomed in the North with great pomp. Nevertheless, in a speech he delivered on his return to England at a banquet in Newcastle, he expressed the hope that the Southern slave owners would be victorious.

During the parliamentary elections in 1867, Gladstone promised that if the Liberal Party were returned the Fenians would be pardoned. This promise helped him to defeat the Conservatives and come into power. For a long time he refused to keep his promise, or else laid down the condition that the rebels unconditionally submit to England and cease their struggle. At last he was compelled to concede by the pressure that was brought to bear upon him by the mass movement and the agitation that was carried on in favour of the release of the Fenians in England and abroad. A big part in this agitation was played by Jonny Marx, Marx's daughter, who wrote a series of articles in the French press revealing the horrible conditions in which the imprisoned Fenians were kept.

PAGE 280 \* One of the six counties of the North of Ireland, which was separated from Ireland when home rule was granted. Ulster is the stronghold of British rule in Ireland and was colonised by Cromwell after his conquest of Ireland in the seventeenth century. It is the descendants of these colonists who mainly constitute the ruling classes of Ulster (the bourgeoisie and land lords), who for generations past have resisted the separation of Ireland from England. As a result of the tremendous growth of the national liberation movement in Ireland at the end of the nineteenth and the beginning of the twentieth centuries, the British government was compelled to make certain concessions, and the so-called era of Irish reform set in. These reforms proceeded along two lines: 1) the line of facilitating the growth of capitalism in agriculture (the Land Acts, which enabled the wealthier farmers to buy land from the English landlords, etc.), and 2) along the line of granting some measure of home rule. On the eve of the imperialist war, a Home Rule for Ireland Bill was passed by the British Parliament. Nevertheless, the British reactionaries brought tremendous pressure to bear upon the government to postpone the actual application of the measure, and under the leadership of Sir Edward Carson they even went to the length of organising a mutiny among the officers of the Guards in the Curragh camp in Ireland, who threatened to resist the introduction of home rule by force. The outbreak of the imperialist war caused the introduction of home rule to be postponed. It is to the determined resistance of the British landlords and capitalists in Ireland to the introduction of home rule that Lenin refers.

PAGE 282 \* In the declaration submitted by the Polish delegates, Warzawski and Hanecki, to the Second Congress on withdrawing from the



congress, their position on the national question was formulated as follows: "The only possible solution of the national problem which is obligatory for Social Democrats under all circumstances is, in our opinion the defence of the freedom of *cultural development* for every nationality by means of the *democratisation* of the historically given institutions." On these grounds they proposed the formulation of the point in the Party programme on the national question which Lenin quotes further on. In a speech he delivered at the Second Congress, Warezawski supported the position he had adopted with the same argument that Rosa Luxemburg employed in *Die Neue Zeit*, the organ of the German Social Democratic Party, in the 'nineties. Like Rosa Luxemburg, he took as his starting point the proposition that at that time (the period of the Second Congress) the process of economic development was "more and more uniting capitalist Poland with capitalist Russia" and that it was therefore ridiculous to raise the question of self-determination for Poland. To do so, he said, would be associating oneself with Polish nationalism, which is "striving to separate the Polish proletariat from the Russian proletariat and to organise it on the basis of utopian national strivings."

PAGE 287 \* Pomyalovsky was a well known Russian writer of the sixties of the nineteenth century. The reference is to a book of his entitled *Sketches of a Seminarist*, in which he describes the life of students in a theological seminary. The system of education in these schools was so brutal that it trained boys to regard acts of rowdiness as feats of heroism, and Lenin has in mind one such act of which the hero in the above mentioned story boasts.

PAGE 289 \* This refers to the complete solidarity that existed between the liberal bourgeoisie represented by the Cadets (the Kokoshkins) and the reactionary landlords (the Purishkeviches) in their fight against the right of oppressed nations to self-determination. (See note to page 269 \*)

PAGE 297 \* The first three articles in Part V of this volume deal with the struggle for national liberation in the colonies in the period of 1908-12, i.e., in the epoch of imperialism. This is the epoch in which "From a rising progressive class the bourgeoisie has become a sinking, decaying, internally dead, reactionary class" (Lenin, *Collected Works*, Vol. XVIII, "Under An Alien Flag," p. 129).

The epoch of bourgeois revolutions in capitalist countries, of revolutions that were directed against feudalism, was the epoch in which the bourgeoisie waged national wars and created national states. Now, things have changed. The bourgeoisie in imperialist countries has become reactionary and no longer wages war against feudalism, and national wars. On the contrary, "a historical situation has now arisen in which the ruling bourgeoisie, out of fear of the proletariat which is growing and becoming stronger, is supporting all that is backward, moribund and mediæval. The obsolete bourgeoisie is combining with all the obsolete and obsolescent forces in order to preserve

the shaken system of wage slavery (Lenin, *Collected Works*, Russian ed Vol XVI, "Backward Europe and Progressive Asia")

But the fact that the imperialist bourgeoisie has become hopelessly reactionary, a declining class does not mean that bourgeois-democratic and national movements *in general* have ceased. On the contrary, the growth of imperialism intensifies the oppression of the bourgeoisie in the dependent countries and colonies which it enslaves, as a result, national movements grow, but the arena of these movements is transferred from imperialist Europe to the oppressed countries of the East "Everywhere in Asia powerful democratic movements are growing, expanding and becoming strong. There the bourgeoisie is *still* marching with the people against reaction. Hundreds of millions of people are awakening to life, light and liberty" (*Ibid*)

In defending its predatory interests, the imperialist bourgeoisie of Europe 'is assisting the enemies of democracy.' All these democratic movements in the colonial countries are movements not only against the native feudal reaction, but also against imperialism. Two enemies are rising against imperialism *viz*, the proletariat in the imperialist countries and the democratic forces in the oppressed countries of the East. The impending Russian revolution has two allies: one marching from the East and the other from the West.

Lenin's defence of the demand of the "right of nations to self-determination" was the defence of the alliance between the proletariat of the West and the democratic movements in the East. Lenin's struggle for the correct interpretation of the role of these movements was one of the links in the preparation for the socialist revolution in Europe, which also "cannot be anything else than an outburst of mass struggle on the part of all and sundry of the oppressed and discontented elements" (Lenin, *Selected Works*, Vol V, "Discussion on Self-Determination Summed Up," p. 302.)

PAGE 297 \*\* The counter-revolutionary *coup d'état* to which Lenin refers here was carried out in Teheran by the Shah of Persia, Mohammed Ali, at the end of June 1908, in order to overthrow the Medjlis, or parliament which was established in Persia as a result of the revolution in 1906. From the class point of view, this *coup d'état* represented the victory of the landlords and the bureaucracy over the revolutionary strata of the population—the merchant bourgeoisie, the artisans and the intelligentsia. The *coup d'état* was brought about with the aid of a brigade of Russian Cossacks, under the command of Colonel Lyakhov, then stationed in Teheran. Previous to the *coup* an attempt had been made on the life of the Shah. Martial law was declared in Teheran and dictatorial powers were given to Colonel Lyakhov. In June, Lyakhov bombarded the Medjlis, dispersed the deputies and hanged several of those he considered to be the most dangerous. After that the Shah appointed him Military Governor of Teheran. Great Britain seemed to stand aside during these events. She preferred to have the revolution strangled by the hands of the Russian reactionaries and later enjoy the "fruits of

victory' The friendly neutrality" she maintained towards the reactionaries, however, revealed on whose side she really was

But the revolution in Persia was not crushed with the dissolution of the Medjlis and the fight for a bourgeois constitution continued in a number of provinces right up to 1911. Tabriz, to which Lenin refers later on in this article, was the main centre of this struggle up to the spring of 1910. Immediately after the June *coup* in Teheran, the Tabriz Endjumen (elected committee from the time of the outbreak of the revolution in 1906 these committees had held power in the provinces) declared the Shah dethroned and began to organise the defence of the town. The defence lasted until April 1910 when the town was taken by Russian troops on the pretext of "protecting Russian nationals." Lenin compares the *coup d'état* in Teheran with the dissolution of the First Duma in Russia, and the defence of Tabriz with the armed rebellion in Moscow in 1905

PAGE 298 \* The victory of the Young Turks, to which Lenin refers, marked the beginning of the Turkish Revolution in 1908. The Young Turk Party which led this revolution and after its victory came into power, was formed in the beginning of the nineties of the last century and consisted mainly of Turkish intellectuals and officers. Its programme and activity expressed the interests of developing Turkish capitalism. The revolution began in July 1908 with the mutiny of a handful of soldiers under the leadership of the junior officers, Nizami Bey and Enver Bey. When the mutineers were joined by the population of Macedonia and all attempts to suppress the mutiny failed, the Sultan of Turkey, Abdul Hamid, agreed to make concessions and restore the constitution of 1877 which he himself had abrogated in 1878. This saved him the throne and enabled him to prepare for and bring about a counter revolution on March 31, 1909. The Young Turks however, rapidly recovered from their setback, overthrew Abdul Hamid, and put a new sultan on the throne.

PAGE 299 \* The national movement in India revived in 1905. At the Twenty First Indian National Congress (the nationalist organisation of the progressive bourgeoisie and bourgeois intelligentsia, formed in 1885) held in 1905, the Swadeshi programme was adopted which pledged Indians to wear only Indian fabrics and to boycott foreign goods. By this means the Indian bourgeoisie retaliated to Great Britain's policy, which was to retard the industrial development of India. As soon as this programme was adopted, propaganda was carried on all over India for the boycott of foreign goods and for the opening of native factories and banks. This propaganda was carried on with particular intensity in Bengal. The British government then passed a law dividing Bengal into two provinces, the partition being made in such a way that the Hindu population predominated in one of the new provinces and the Mohammedan population in the other. This served to stimulate religious strife between the two sections of the population. At

its next meeting in 1907, the Indian National Congress proclaimed a boycott of British goods until the repeal of the Bengal Partition Act. At this time the first beginnings of a labour movement appeared in India. In 1906 there were strikes of railwaymen and coal miners, and in 1907 there were strikes in the jute mills of Calcutta.

At this time the liberal, John Morley, was Secretary of State for India. Notwithstanding his reputation as an advanced radical he took stern measures against the liberation movement. An old Act of 1818 was revived, which empowered the Governor General to deport political "suspects." Then two new Acts were passed in 1908, which strictly prohibited the native population from manufacturing or being in possession of explosives and arms. A number of Indian revolutionaries were deported from India. Tilak, the leader of the Left wing of the Indian national movement, who were known as the "extremists," was sentenced to six months' imprisonment for an article he wrote against the reign of terror in India. Measures of repression were also taken against the press and a number of newspapers were closed down or prosecuted. Among the newspapers that were suppressed was the one Lenin mentions, *Justice*. In March 1909, 130 Indian journalists were either languishing in jail or in exile but this did not put a stop to the movement. In 1908 and 1909 a number of attempts were made on the lives of British officials in India. These, in their turn, called forth sterner measures of repression on the part of the government.

PAGE 300 \* In 1907 a rebellion broke out in the province of Ping Li, in China, organized by the Sun Yat-sen League (See note to page 312 \*). This gave rise to a wave of rebellions throughout the South of China which, however, were unsuccessful. These rebellions were the harbingers of the impending revolution of 1911. Evidently, it is these rebellions to which Lenin refers. The assistance rendered by the French to the "historical government" of China in suppressing the revolution, to which Lenin refers later on, was the following: the insurgents had held the town of Wheichow for a whole month against the government forces, but were eventually obliged to evacuate the town and retreat to French territory. On the demand of the Peking government the French authorities deported the revolutionaries, six hundred in number, to Singapore.

PAGE 300 \*\* In July 1908, several sanguinary collisions occurred between the police and the workers. On July 2, there were collisions between gendarmes and striking miners in the town of Vigneaux during which one worker was killed and ten workers and four gendarmes were injured. On July 6, during a collision between workers and police in the town of St. Pol, thirteen workers were injured. On July 30, fighting again broke out in Vigneaux in which shots were exchanged between the workers and the police and three workers were killed and twenty injured. On the same day the collision occurred between strikers and police in Villeneuve Saint

Georges, a suburb of Paris to which Lenin refers, this led to the erection of barricades. These workers' demonstrations, collisions with the police and the erection of barricades strikingly reflected the intensification of class antagonisms, but no less strikingly expressive of this was the conduct of the government headed by the radical Clemenceau. In 1906 when a deputation of striking miners from the North of France visited him, he pronounced the words that Lenin quotes here "We stand on opposite sides of the barricade," and then he sent troops to put down the strike. In 1908, when he was already Prime Minister and responsible for the shooting down of the workers, he, in reply to the interpellations in the Chamber, threw all the blame on the Socialists on the ground that by their agitation they had incited the miners. From that moment Clemenceau acquired the notoriety of the generals who shot down the workers' rebellion in Paris in June 1848 and of General Gallifet who shot down the Communards at the time of the suppression of the Paris Commune. It was under the Clemenceau government that the French workers began to resort to barricade fighting for the first time since the Paris Commune.

PAGE 301 \* The Third Republic is the name given to the Republic which was set up after the suppression of the Paris Commune in 1871, and which exists to this day. It was given this name to distinguish it from the republic set up during the French Revolution of 1789, which existed until Napoleon I was proclaimed Emperor in 1804 and from the so called Second Republic, which was set up at the time of the Revolution of 1848 and which existed until the restoration of the monarchy in 1851.

PAGE 305 \* This article was first published in *Novskaya Zvezda* (*New Star*), No 17, 1912, simultaneously with the translation of an article by Sun Yat sen, entitled "The Social Significance of the Chinese Revolution," and was thus a commentary on the latter. The following is a brief outline of Sun Yat sen's article.

First of all the "three great principles" of Sun Yat senism are enumerated, viz, 1) the supremacy of the Chinese race, 2) administration for the people by the people, and 3) the supremacy of the people in the protection of wealth. It then went on to state that the first two principles had been realised as a result of the Revolution of 1911 and that it was now necessary to realise the third, i.e., to bring about an "economic revolution." Sun Yat sen denied that the aim of regenerated China was to transform it into a powerful nation like England, France or America. In those states, he wrote, "the gulf between the rich and the poor is far too wide, and revolutionary ideas disturb their citizens. Unless a social revolution takes place the majority will be deprived forever of joy and happiness in life. At the present time this happiness is the lot of only a few capitalists. The masses of the workers continue to live in suffering." He went on to state that "a race revolution and a revolution in political administration are easy to

bring about, but a revolution in society is a much more difficult thing,' but that while it was very difficult to bring about a social revolution in civilised countries with a developed industry such a revolution was relatively easy" in China, and "we have the opportunity of forestalling the advent of the capitalist regime" 'Unless we take care right from the beginning of the existence of our Chinese republic to protect ourselves against the establishment of capitalism in the very near future, a despotism a hundred times more frightful than the despotism of the Manchu Dynasty awaits us, and rivers of blood will be required to liberate ourselves from it' The fundamental task of the impending economic revolution in China was that of "changing all the juridical foundations of immovable property" so that the land tax would conform to the value of the land—a small tax on poor land and a higher tax on better land—and that "the enhanced value of land shall accrue to the people who created it and not to the private capitalists, who accidentally became owners of land" Sun Yat sen's article was reprinted in *Novskaya Zvezda* from the Brussels newspaper, *Le Peuple*, of July 31, 1912

PAGE 310 \* See *Poverty of Philosophy* chapter II, section 4, "Property or Rent," *Capital*, Vol III, chapter XLVII and *Theories of Surplus Value*, Vol II, part 1, chapter 1, section 4, "Rodbertus on Ricardo"

PAGE 312 \* In 1911 a revolution broke out in China. This was a revolution of the urban bourgeoisie, the peasantry and the proletariat—which did not yet have its own party and therefore did not play an independent role—against the Chinese autocratic government which represented the feudal landlords and the bureaucracy. The landlords and the bureaucrats not only exploited the country to the utmost, but even tried to subject it to the imperialists. Consequently, right from the outset, the struggle against feudalism in China was practically a struggle against the imperialism which was enslaving China. This explains why "democratic" Europe not only refused to "recognise" the revolution, but even gave financial support to the counter-revolution. The stronghold of the revolution was the industrially advanced South, the stronghold of reaction was the economically backward North. The leader of the revolution was the celebrated Sun Yat sen, whom Lenin, in the preceding article, describes as a petty bourgeois democrat standing close to the Russian Narodniki. In 1901 Sun Yat sen organised a league, which later united with the liberals to form the National Party. The counter-revolution was led by General Yuan Shih kai. In the beginning of 1912, after protracted negotiations with the South, Yuan Shih kai recognised the republic, but he secured the demobilisation of a section of the revolutionary troops. This greatly strengthened his position and weakened that of the revolution. While keeping the old bureaucratic apparatus of the government intact, Yuan Shih kai from that moment began to establish his dictatorial power over the whole of China. The parliamentary elections, to which Lenin

refers in this article, resulted in a majority for the adherents of Yuan Shih kai Sun Yat sen, who up to that time had been provisional president, waived his candidature for the presidency in favour of Yuan Shih kai and the latter became president This was the second setback to the South and was the fruit of the opportunist tactics pursued by Sun Yat sen and his party In the same year (July and August 1912) as a result of the pressure of the Right elements in the National Party Sun Yat sen and his adherents committed the third blunder they merged the National Party with a number of Right wing "republican" groups and formed the Kuomintang which consisted of various groups of the urban and rural big, middle, and petty bourgeoisie (See note to page 313 \*)

PAGE 312 \*\* At that time Mongolia was under the rule of China Chinese merchant capital cruelly exploited the population of Mongolia by usury and trade Moreover, in order to strengthen its rule, on the very eve of the Revolution of 1911 the Chinese government drew up an extensive plan of colonising Mongolia with Chinese and began to put this plan into operation This gave rise to a nationalist movement in Mongolia against China The tsarist government decided to take advantage of this movement in order to annex Mongolia and for this purpose supported the Mongolian partisan leader, Bair Toktoho, who had risen in rebellion against China, gave him refuge on Russian territory, gave him opportunities for making raids on the Chinese on the Mongolian side of the frontier, and for carrying on propaganda in favour of Mongolia seceding from China As a result of this propaganda, in the summer of 1911 the princes and lamas, or priests of Mongolia, at a congress held in Urga, the capital of Mongolia, decided to send a deputation to St Petersburg to ask for the intervention of Russia The Russian government agreed to render assistance In the autumn of the same year, the Mongolian princes and clergy took advantage of the fact that the Chinese government was fully occupied with the Chinese revolution and proclaimed the independence of Outer Mongolia The tsarist government immediately took the opportunity to consolidate its position in Mongolia and on November 3, 1912, concluded a treaty with the new government of Mongolia by which Russia promised to aid her against the Chinese and in return received a number of rights and privileges, such as imports of goods duty free, the free purchase and leasing of land, the free grazing of cattle, fishing, hunting, etc It was this support for the national movement in the interests of the Russian ruling classes that Lenin described as Russia's "tender embraces" of Mongolia

PAGE 313 \* As was seen from note to page 312,\* the "near future" proved that the peasantry was unable to retain its democratic positions The Chinese Revolution of 1925-27 was a still more striking illustration of Lenin's idea Up to a certain period Sun Yat sen's Kuomintang Party stood at the head of the anti-imperialist movement in this revolution But the growth of the

workers' and peasants' movement induced it to turn *against* the revolution and enter into a compromise with the imperialists. At the present time the Kuomintang is playing a counterrevolutionary role, while the Chinese peasants are carrying on a revolutionary struggle against the landlords and the bourgeoisie under the leadership of the proletariat and its Communist Party. The workers' and peasants' revolution in China has succeeded in setting up Soviet rule over a considerable territory in China with a population of eighty million, which is exercising the revolutionary democratic dictatorship of the proletariat and the peasantry.

PAGE 314 \* At the Stuttgart Congress of the Second International, held in 1907, the Left wing of the Congress (Rosa Luxemburg and others), headed by Lenin, moved an amendment to the resolution on militarism that was before the Congress, which contained a very distinct formulation of the fundamental strategic tasks upon which the Socialists of all countries were to concentrate the efforts of the proletariat, *viz.*, to hasten the fall of capitalist rule and to prepare the masses for the socialist revolution in reply to the preparations the capitalists were making for a world war. This formulation was adopted by the congress in spite of the resistance offered by the delegation of the German Social Democratic Party, which was the leading party in the Second International. The German delegation, which numbered three hundred, advocated an opportunist policy and tactics. On the various commissions of the congress (on militarism, emigration, colonial policy), the German delegation was represented by opportunists of long standing like David, Bernstein, Poplow and others, whom Lenin describes as people having nothing in common with socialism. The article "The International Socialist Congress in Stuttgart," was published in *Everyman's Calendar for 1908*. It gives an estimation of the work of the congress and is a striking example of the manner in which Lenin fought against Right opportunism, centrism and anarchist Leftism (Hervé) in the pre-war Second International. It also describes the tasks which confronted revolutionary Social Democracy after the Stuttgart Congress.

PAGE 316 \* The Dresden Congress of the German Social Democratic Party took place in 1903. The principal item on the agenda was the question of revisionism, which had come very much to the fore as a consequence of the publication, just prior to this congress, of Bernstein's *Prerequisites of Socialism and the Tasks of Social Democracy*. The Dresden Congress condemned Bernstein's attempt to revise the theories of Marx as an attempt 'to substitute the policy of compromise with the existing system for the tried and successful tactics, based on the class struggle, of fighting for the conquest of political power,' and warned the Party against any attempts that might be made in the future to transform it from a revolutionary party into a party "that would be content with the reform of the bourgeois system."

The Amsterdam Congress of the Second International, which took place



in 1904, discussed the question of revisionism and passed a resolution on "the international rules of socialist tactics" in which the fundamental postulates of the resolution passed by the Dresden Congress of the German Social Democratic Party were repeated. However the condemnation of opportunism at both these congresses bore a centrist conciliatory character and the centrist leadership of the German Social Democratic Party not only tolerated such agents of the bourgeoisie as Bernstein and Co in its ranks, but even allowed them to take part in the Party leadership adapted itself to them and directed the Party along opportunist lines.

PAGE 316 \*\* In the Commission on Militarism at the Stuttgart Congress Vollmar, one of the German delegates, delivered a speech in which he renounced revolutionary proletarian principles and preached bourgeois patriotism. He said "It is not true to say that we have no fatherland. We have a fatherland. All our love for humanity cannot prevent us from being good Germans." We are of the opinion that anti-militarist propaganda is not only mistaken from the point of view of tactics, but is harmful in principle.

In the Emigration Commission, Peplow, another German delegate, spoke in support of the national chauvinist position on the question of the emigration of Asiatic workers. He argued that the International should call for legislation restricting the immigration of "yellow" workers (Chinese, Japanese, Malayan, etc.) into "civilised" countries (Germany, England, the United States, etc.). These workers, he declared, by agreeing to work for low wages, were actually strikebreakers, and therefore should be treated as such and not be allowed to enter "civilised" countries. Thus, Peplow proposed that the Western workers fence themselves off from the Asiatic workers by a wall of bourgeois legislation prohibiting the latter from seeking work in European countries.

David, another German delegate, speaking in the Colonial Commission, argued that since colonial policy was an inevitable concomitant of capitalism, Social Democracy should fight not against colonial policy as such, but for the improvement of the conditions of labour for the inhabitants of colonies, and for the proper exploitation of the colonies by the bourgeoisie. "We must," he said, "create our own colonial policy." Social Democracy should try to secure its own labour protection laws in the colonies and not take up the fruitless position of opposing colonial policy, he said. Bernstein tried to bring forward "theoretical" arguments in proof of David's monstrous defence of colonial exploitation. He argued that there were two categories of peoples, of which one belonged to the ruling people and the other to the ruled. There were people, he said, who were children incapable of developing themselves. From this "theory" Bernstein drew the conclusion that colonial policy was inevitable even under socialism.

PAGE 317 \* The opportunist theory of the "neutrality" of the trade unions had its origin in Germany. It took the place of the no less erroneous theory

of 'utilising' the trade unions. In its initial stages a section of the German Social Democratic Party denied that the trade unions had any importance at all, while another section was of the opinion that trade unions were useful only in so far as they could be "utilised" for Party agitation. With the growth of the trade union movement an increasing section of the Party began to understand the importance of the trade unions, while the Party as a whole attached considerable importance to them. However, it was of the opinion that the sole task of the trade unions was to fight for the improvement of the conditions of labour under capitalism and that this struggle could best be carried on *independently* of the Party. Those workers who desired to fight for socialism could join the Party, they argued. The harmfulness of this theory of the "independence," or "neutrality" of the trade unions lay in the fact that it separated the trade unions from the Party and the Party leadership and restricted the trade unions exclusively to economic reformist work.

The resolution of the Fourth Unity Congress of the RSDLP, held in Stockholm, which, as Lenin says, confirmed "the position of the partisans of *neutrality*," was a Menshevik resolution. Its concluding part reads as follows:

"The congress recognises: 1) that the Party must support the strivings of the workers for industrial organisation and exert every effort to assist in the formation of non-Party trade unions, 2) that with this in view, in utilising all legal possibilities, particularly the Trade Union Act, the legal boundaries must be constantly extended and an undeviating struggle must be carried on for the complete freedom of trade unions, 3) that all members of the Party should join the trade unions, take an active part in all their activities, constantly strengthen the class solidarity and class consciousness of the members of the trade unions in order organically, in the struggle and agitation, to link up the unions with the Party."

Under the cloak of vague phrases like "strengthen the class solidarity and class consciousness" and "organically link up the unions with the Party," this resolution contained the opportunist idea of the neutrality of trade unions, denied the need for Party leadership of the trade unions, and denied that the trade unions must participate in the political struggle for the socialist tasks of the proletariat. In opposition to this resolution, the Bolsheviks moved a resolution which declared that "the Party must exert every effort to train the organised workers to acquire a broad understanding of the class struggle and of the socialist tasks of the proletariat, in order by their activities to win the actual leadership in these unions, and, finally, in order that these unions should, under certain conditions, directly affiliate with the Party, without, however, excluding non-Party workers from membership." This Bolshevik view of what the relations between the trade unions and the Party should be was rejected by the Fourth Congress of the Party, but it was adopted at the Fifth Congress in London in a more sharply expressed form. The resolution on the trade unions,

adopted by the Fifth Congress, read 'Confirming the resolution of the Unity Congress on the work of the trade unions the congress reminds Party organisations and Social Democrats who are working in the trade unions of one of the fundamental tasks of Social Democratic work in the trade unions, viz, to help the trade unions to recognise the ideological leadership of the Social Democratic Party and also to establish organisational ties with the Party, and to recognise the necessity where local conditions permit, of carrying out this task'

PAGE 318 \* The Social Democratic Federation was formed in England in 1884 and consisted at first of a small group of radically minded socialist intellectuals. It carried on its work mainly among unskilled workers and the unemployed by holding meetings, organising demonstrations and carrying on agitation in favour of an independent proletarian party. After a number of splits had taken place in it, the party, in 1912, changed its name to the British Socialist Party. During the whole period of its existence it was never more than a socialist sect. The sectarian character of the Federation was due to the wrong tactics it adopted and the conditions in which the labour movement in England developed at that time. Its wrong tactics were expressed in its neglect of the struggle for the everyday needs of the workers, and in its wrong attitude towards the trade unions which it insisted should have adopted the programme of the SDP in its entirety. Sometimes it resorted to impermissible tactics in election campaigns as for example, taking funds from the Conservatives in order to put up candidates against the Liberals. On the outbreak of the imperialist war the leadership of the Party, headed by Hyndman, adopted an open social chauvinist position. This, however, was rejected by the majority of the membership and the leaders were expelled. Under the new leadership the Party pursued a centrist policy during the remaining period of the war. When the Communist International was formed, the majority of the Party, together with other organisations with which it amalgamated, formed the Communist Party of Great Britain and affiliated to the Communist International.

PAGE 318 \*\* The Independent Labour Party was formed in 1893. It arose out of the labour aristocracy and trade union bureaucracy in England. Lenin aptly characterised this party as the 'Independent (of socialism) Party'. In its character and activity it was the very opposite of the Social Democratic Federation. Its main aim was to secure minor improvements in the conditions of the working class by securing the election of its members to municipal bodies and Parliament, leaving socialism in the background. The party did not wage a revolutionary class struggle, or carry on propaganda in favour of it. During the imperialist war the party pursued a petty bourgeois pacifist policy. After the war, and after the fall of the second Labour government most of its prominent leaders found their way into the Tory camp. With the intensification of the class struggle in England in the

period of the end of capitalist stabilisation a process of differentiation took place in the party. The more radical, working class section of the party at the Bradford Conference of 1932, demanded a more revolutionary policy, and decided by a majority to break away from the Labour Party. At the next conference, held in Derby in 1933, the decision was adopted to approach the Communist International with the view to ascertaining how the ILP could assist in the work of the Comintern. The leaders of the ILP persistently sabotaged the efforts of the members to co-operate with the Comintern. The Comintern in a number of letters to the ILP proposed concrete forms of co-operation and also proposed that the ILP affiliate to the C.I. as a sympathising party. The leadership of the ILP, however, strongly fought against this proposal and it was turned down at the York Conference of 1934. A considerable section of the ILP is now fighting for the line indicated in the C.I. letters, and against the ILP leadership.

PAGE 320 \* The First International Conference of Socialist Women took place in Stuttgart, on September 1, 1907. The two main items on the agenda of the conference were 1) the struggle for women's suffrage and 2) the formation of a Women's International Socialist Secretariat. During the discussion on women's suffrage a fairly considerable opportunist trend was revealed, represented by the delegates of Austria and partly by the British delegation.

PAGE 321 \* Hervé, formerly an anarchist and later a member of the Socialist Party of France, began in 1906 to issue a journal called *La Guerre Sociale* (*The Social War*) in which he carried on antimilitarist propaganda. The main idea running through this propaganda was that the proletariat should retaliate to every kind of war by general strikes and rebellion. It was this idea that he advocated at the Stuttgart Congress. Lenin explains the error of this "revolutionary" phrase in the present article and also in the next article in this volume.

PAGE 324 \* This article, written by Lenin in 1908, and published in *Proletary*, No. 83, of August 5 [July 23], 1908, is practically a continuation of the preceding article on the Stuttgart Congress. The article was called forth by the extreme intensification of the international situation in the middle of 1908 when the danger of war became so acute that even bourgeois politicians openly talked about it. The attitude of the German Social Democratic Party towards the menace of war gave cause for alarm. After the Stuttgart Congress, the German Right wing opportunists began to advocate their ideas quite openly and determinedly, without encountering any resistance in the Party. Meanwhile, in France, Hervé and his followers continued to advocate their "heroic folly," with which Lenin deals in detail in the present article. Like the preceding article, this article is a striking illustration of the manner in which Lenin waged the

struggle on two fronts on the question of war *i.e.*, against Right opportunism and Left "folly"

PAGE 324 \*\* The acuteness of the "Macedonian question" was expressed in the following: the Macedonian peasantry, in supporting the rebellion of the Turkish army against Sultan Abdul Hamid (see note to page 298 \*), hoped to obtain their independence. On the other hand each of the three Balkan states *viz.*, Bulgaria, Serbia and Greece, was striving to secure the annexation of Macedonia. It was not to the advantage of the predatory European powers, *viz.* Austria, England, Russia, etc., to permit any of the Balkan states to become strong, they therefore urged the Turkish government to introduce a number of reforms in Macedonia for improving the economic and juridical position of the Macedonian population, while retaining Macedonia under its rule. When the movement against the Sultan began in Turkey, Bulgaria decided to take advantage of the embarrassments of the Turkish government, under the threat of war she demanded the immediate introduction of these reforms in Macedonia. Bulgaria's ultimatum to Turkey caused all the big imperialist powers of Europe to intervene. Secret negotiations commenced, in the course of which it was revealed how exceedingly strained the relations were between Austria and Russia, Turkey and Bulgaria etc.

By the acuteness of the Central Asiatic "question" is meant the events in Persia that began to develop in the spring of 1908. In June 1908, the Shah of Persia with the assistance of Russian Cossacks who were stationed in Persia, under the command of Colonel Lyakhov, brought about a counter-revolutionary coup (see note to page 297 \*\*). This caused civil war to break out in Persia, which created a menace to Anglo-Russian rule there and also gave rise to mutual suspicion between these two imperialist powers. Each one feared that the other would take advantage of the situation to strengthen its own position in Asia.

By the acuteness of the Far Eastern "question" is meant the civil war in China. In the spring of 1907 a rebellion broke out in six of the southern provinces of China. A rebel army 60,000 strong was formed, which marched against the armies of the Chinese emperor. The rebellion caused panic among the governing circles in China and greatly disturbed the imperialist powers, which had divided up China into their respective "spheres of influence." The rebellion was crushed, but the rebels managed to retain their arms. On November 19, 1907, the director of a school for police officials assassinated the Governor General of one of the provinces of China and declared that he himself belonged to the revolutionary party. In the spring of 1908 the agitation of Sun Yat-sen and his followers spread over the whole of South China. This agitation concentrated on the following three slogans: 1) Overthrow the ruling dynasty, 2) Establish a republic; 3) Make China independent and free. All these events caused the intensification of the Far Eastern question. For further details on the movement in

China and about Sun Yat sen see the article "Regenerated China" and "Democracy and Narodism in China," as well as notes to pages 300,\* 305 \* and 312 \* in this volume

PAGE 324 \*\*\* The Clemenceau Briand Cabinet was formed in 1906 as the result of an agreement between two bourgeois parties, the Radical Party and the Radical Socialist Party During their administration a terrible mining disaster occurred, in which thousands of miners lost their lives as a result of the failure of the owners to adopt the necessary safety measures The miners responded to this by a strike, and the Clemenceau Briand Cabinet sent troops against the strikers The same government, with the aid of police and troops, suppressed a First of May demonstration in Paris In 1907 it sent a whole army to suppress the unrest among the peasant wine growers in the South of France In 1908 it sent armed gendarmes against the navvies who were on strike in the environs of Paris This government also cruelly punished civil servants for joining trade unions, and it was particularly fierce in its persecution of anti militarist propaganda

PAGE 324 \*\*\*\* This refers to the government set up by Chancellor Bülow after the Reichstag elections in 1907 This government lasted two years, during which it became notorious for its rapid expansion of the German navy, its suppression of the Polish population in Germany and its trade union law, passed in April 1908, which prohibited persons under twenty years of age from attending political meetings or belonging to trade unions This law greatly hindered anti militarist work among those about to be called up for military service On the basis of this law, all youth organisations, including Social Democratic youth organisations, were dissolved The law was only repealed after the German Revolution of 1918

PAGE 325 \* The Paris International Socialist Congress, 1889, adopted a resolution on militarism, which contained the demand for the abolition of the standing army and its substitution by the armed nation The Brussels International Socialist Congress 1891, adopted a resolution which declared that "only the creation of a socialist system which will abolish the exploitation of man by man can put an end to militarism and introduce peace among the nations" The Zürich International Socialist Congress, 1893, adopted a resolution declaring that Social Democracy "should tirelessly work to bring about the downfall of capitalism" that "the downfall of capitalism means universal peace," and it made it obligatory for the representatives of workers' parties in parliament to "vote against war credits" and "unceasingly protest against maintaining standing armies, and demand disarmament" Finally, the Stuttgart Congress held in 1907 passed a resolution on militarism, with an amendment moved by Lenin and others which contained the passage quoted by Lenin and then went on to say: "If a war threatens to break out, it is the duty of the working classes

and their parliamentary representatives in the countries involved to exert every effort to prevent the outbreak of war by the means they consider most effective. In case war should break out it is their duty to intervene in favour of its speedy termination and with all their power to utilise the economic and political crisis created by the war to rouse the masses and thereby to hasten the downfall of capitalist class rule."

PAGE 326 \* The Essen Congress of the German Social Democratic Party took place in 1907 immediately after the Stuttgart International Congress. During the debate on the report of the Social Democratic Party in the Reichstag, Vollmar attacked Karl Liebknecht who had insisted on the necessity of carrying on anti-militarist propaganda. It was in his speech during this debate that Vollmar enunciated the social chauvinist view to which Lenin refers.

PAGE 330 \* The Belgian Socialist Party was formed in 1877, but dragged on a miserable existence owing to its inability to link up with the masses of the workers. In 1885 it amalgamated with the newly formed Belgian Labour Party, which consisted of affiliated trade unions, workers' educational associations, co-operative societies, etc. During the first period of its activity 1885-1902, the Party gave promise of becoming a genuine socialist party. During this period it carried on considerable political work, organised a large number of workers' associations for political propaganda and actively led strikes. In 1893 it organised a general strike in support of the demand for universal suffrage, it organised broad anti-militarist propaganda, and set up proletarian youth leagues, etc. From 1902 onwards, after the failure of the second general strike the Party slipped into the rut of opportunism. In the Party, theory began to be treated with contempt and reformist practice was put in the foreground. The leaders of the Party admitted that there were hardly any members in the Party who were acquainted with the principal works of Marx and Engels. The spirit of narrow practical politics and opportunism gradually overcame the Party.

The Russian Revolution of 1905 gave an impetus to the revival of the radical spirit in the Party, and voices began to be heard declaring that the Party had taken the wrong road. In 1909 a small Left opposition group was organised in the Party, which started a struggle against the majority. In 1911, *Die Neue Zeit* published a special supplement containing two articles strikingly depicting the opportunism of the Belgian Labour Party. One was written by Henriette de Man, entitled "The Character of the Belgian Labour Movement," and the other by Louis de Brouckère, entitled "The Political Crisis in Belgium." During the imperialist war however, both these authors were rabid social chauvinists.

PAGE 330 \*\* The congress of the Belgian Labour Party, which took place in Louvain, in 1880, passed a resolution urging the need for setting up

separate youth organisations, one of the special functions of which was to be to carry on anti militarist propaganda. The adoption of this resolution was prompted by the fact that the Belgian government had sent troops to suppress every big strike. The first youth organisation, known as the Young Guard, was formed in 1886, after the brutal suppression of the rebellion of the Walloon workers by the government. The Young Guard carried on extensive anti militarist work, published a number of anti militarist newspapers, pamphlets, posters, etc., and organised anti militarist meetings and demonstrations. The government severely persecuted the organisation and tried to suppress it. In 1895, 1896, 1901, 1902, 1903 and 1904, mass arrests and trials of the members of the Young Guard took place, at which the active members were sentenced to periods of imprisonment ranging from three to six years. As is evident from the figures Lenin quotes, the Young Guard continued to grow and extend its activities in spite of this persecution.

PAGE 331 \* Marx spoke of the necessity of Germany waging war against Russia during the German Revolution of 1848. At that time Russia was the bulwark of the counter revolutionary forces in Europe, and the latter, in Germany and Austria, counted on the support of Russia in the event of revolution in their respective countries. Russia had helped the Austrian autocracy to crush the rebellion in Hungary. Hence, speaking about a revolutionary war waged by Germany against Russia, Marx wrote in 1848: "Only war with Russia would be a war of revolutionary Germany. In which it could wash away the sins of the past. In which it could vanquish its own autocrats, in which—as befits a people throwing off the fetters of long, dull slavery—it purchases the propaganda of civilisation with the sacrifice of its sons, and frees itself internally by freeing itself externally."

PAGE 332 \* Marx and Engels tried to influence public opinion in England in order to induce the latter to go to war against Russia in 1853 and in 1877. In 1853 Russia declared war on Turkey in order to annex Constantinople and the Dardanelles Straits. At that time Marx and Engels wrote in the *New York Tribune*, April 12, 1853: "But let Russia get possession of Turkey and her strength is increased nearly half, she becomes superior to all the rest of Europe put together. Such an event would be an unspeakable calamity to the revolutionary cause. In this instance the interests of revolutionary democracy and of England go hand in hand. Neither can permit the tsar to make Constantinople one of his capitals and we shall find that when driven to the wall the one will resist him as determinedly as the other." A little over a week later Marx wrote: "She can never allow Russia to obtain possession of Constantinople. She must then take sides with the enemies of the tsar." (*New York Tribune*, April 21, 1853.)

During the Russo-Turkish war of 1877, the Liberal leader, Gladstone,



spoke in support of Russia and argued that Russia was fighting for a just cause Gladstone's opponents pointed out that in this war Russia desired to profit at Turkey's expense and seize Constantinople, and that therefore England should fight Russia Marx based his views on the position that a victory of tsarism over Turkey would increase reaction in Europe, and therefore he urged that England should intervene in the war against Russia In one of his letters to his friend Sorge, he wrote at that time 'I maintained a crossfire in the London fashionable press against the Russomania Gladstone, influencing English parliamentarians of the Upper and Lower House'

PAGE 332 \*\* The alliance between France, England and Russia was an outcome of the antagonisms among the imperialist powers The Triple Entente was preceded by an alliance between France and Russia which was concluded in 1893, as a consequence of the hostility between France and Germany, and between Russia and Austria which was then in alliance with Germany In 1904, France concluded an "Entente cordiale" with England by which France seized Morocco and England seized Egypt In 1907 England concluded a treaty with Russia for the partition of Persia, and concerning Afghanistan and Tibet By concluding separate treaties with France and Russia, England was brought into the Franco-Russian alliance Thus, a "Triple Entente" was formed against Germany and Austria By praising this imperialist alliance Jaurès gave his approval to the preparation by the Triple Entente of a war against Germany

PAGE 333 \* In 1906 the finances of the tsarist government were at low ebb as a consequence of the expenditure incurred by the war against Japan and the suppression of the revolution in 1905, and so it appealed to the French government and to the French bankers for a huge loan of two and a half billion francs In the early part of 1906, the Socialist Party of France, and particularly Jaurès one of its leaders, carried on a persistent campaign against the granting of this loan Speaking against the granting of this loan in the Chamber of Deputies, Jaurès said 'to diminish the financial difficulties of tsarism means enabling it to gain time and to deceive the people once again it means sharing, in the name of France, the responsibility for the murder and deception perpetrated by tsarism Anyone who advances gold to tsarism supports the murder of a nation The face and hands of the supporter will be splashed with blood and mud' Jaurès' campaign against the loan was unsuccessful The French bourgeoisie was interested in the suppression of the Russian revolution and in strengthening the Russian autocracy, and so the loan was granted

PAGE 333 \*\* The Russian Revolution of 1905 stimulated the revolutionary movement in Poland, which was then part of the Russian Empire After the defeat of the revolution in Russia, the tsarist government began fiercely

to suppress the Poles field courts martial were set up in Poland, and hundreds of Poles were sentenced to death Poland was flooded with troops who plundered, violated and tormented the peaceful population Even the Russian bourgeoisie was indignant at the conduct of the tsarist generals and officers in Poland The bourgeois *Russkiye Vedomosti* (*Russian News*) wrote "Every day brings a telegram from Warsaw announcing death penalties, these penalties have become so numerous that the Commander in Chief of the region has found it necessary, in order to save public money, to substitute the cheaper method of shooting for the method of hanging, which cost seventy five rubles per head The region and its population are in the hands of the soldiery who consider themselves to be above the law and who, therefore, are not afraid of being called to account for their outrageous acts of tyranny" The outrageous conduct of tsarism in Poland called forth the strong protest of the French proletariat, and Jaurès published a sharp protest against the bloody deeds of tsarist "justice" in Poland, in *L'Humanité*, the organ of the Socialist Party of France

PAGE 333 \*\*\* Armand Fallières, President of the French Republic, 1906 13 In August 1908 he visited Tsar Nicholas II By 1908 the Triple Entente, i.e., the alliance between England, France and Russia against the Austro German alliance, had been concluded, and the visit Fallières paid to the tsar and to Edward VII in the same year, was a demonstration of the new relationships that had been established between these imperialist powers The conclusion of this alliance was striking evidence of the preparations that were being made for the war that broke out in the autumn of 1914 Jaurès protested against Fallières' visit to the tsar on the same grounds that he protested against the loan to Russia

PAGE 333 \*\*\*\* The government of the restoration was the name given to the government that was established in France after the dethronement of Napoleon I by the allies, i.e., Russia, England, Prussia, etc., in 1814 It was a reactionary government which rested on the support of the landlords and which tried to restore the regime that had existed before the Great French Revolution

The government of Thiers and Jules Favre was the government notorious for its suppression of the Paris Commune and its fierce persecution of the workers

PAGE 334 \* In his article on the Stuttgart Congress, Lenin quoted the explanation that Kautsky gave for the opportunist conduct of the German delegation at the congress Kautsky stated that half the delegation consisted of trade union officials and that the members of the Party who were trade union officials represented the Right wing of the Party There is a modicum of truth in this explanation It was known to the whole International that the German trade union officials, submerged in the petty details of everyday reformist work, had lost their revolutionary perspective and had sunk into

the mire of compromise This was the natural result of their isolation from the Party, which, in its turn, was due to the theory of the "neutrality" of the trade unions which prevailed in the Party (See note to page 317 \*) Thus, a situation was created in which the Party did not lead trade union work while the opportunist trade union leaders prevented the masses from being trained in the spirit of socialism and the class struggle Kautsky was right when he said that the trade union officials constituted the Right wing of the Party, but in ascribing the opportunism of the German delegation to the fact that half of it consisted of trade union officials Kautsky told only part of the truth he did not mention the opportunism that was growing in the German Social Democratic Party quite apart from the trade union officials He did not mention the fact that Vollmar, David Bernstein and others, who played a leading role in the delegation, were not trade union officials and yet were prominent members of the Social Democratic Party He did not mention the fact that in the German delegation there were many who grouped themselves around the opportunist magazine *Sozialistische Monatshefte* (*Socialist Monthly*) and who while having nothing in common with socialism, were members of the Party Subsequently the conspiracy of silence among the leaders of the German Social Democratic Party concerning the growing opportunism in the Party became one of its characteristic features It proved that opportunism had already acquired enormous influence in the Party and had subordinated the leadership to itself

In the present article, which was published in *Prosvashcheniye*, No 4, April 1914, that is to say, a few months before the outbreak of the imperialist war, Lenin strongly protests against the glossing over of the short comings of the German Party and of the German labour movement Exposing the opportunism among the leaders of the German Party, he called upon the Party at last to take determined measures to remove the ulcer that was making it incapable of fighting in the impending battles

PAGE 334 \*\* The American Federation of Labour was formed in 1887 and united in its ranks the trade unions which organised the skilled workers *i.e.*, the aristocracy of labour Right from the very outset, the American Federation of Labour took up a hostile attitude towards the class struggle and in its programme it declared that its aim was to wage a purely industrial struggle for the improvement of the conditions of its members Severe obstacles were placed in the way of unskilled workers becoming members of the Federation The Federation wages a persistent struggle against the propaganda of socialism and of political action among its members. It is closely associated with the bourgeois political parties, supporting one or the other party according to the promises that each makes to support reforms for the benefit of the workers Its president at that time, Samuel Gompers, was a bitter enemy of the proletarian revolution He died in 1924

PAGE 337 \* Concerning Höchberg and the attitude of Marx and Engels towards him, see note to page 85 \*\* Dühring was a university lecturer who

had published a number of books in opposition to scientific socialism in these he advanced his own theory of socialism, which was just a mass of confusion. However, Dühring's theory found considerable support in the ranks of the German Social Democratic Party. This prompted Engels to write a series of articles in opposition to Dühring which afterwards were published in book form under the title of *Herr Eugen Dühring's "Revolution in Science*, or, briefly, *Anti Dühring*. This book has played an enormous role in the development and propagation of Marxism, and is to this day one of the best expositions of its principles.

